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Celebrity pg 45

Krasinski, Blunt ready to tie the knot

Bryant case put off to next month

COURT The case against former Ontario attorney general Michael Bryant has been held over until May 25, his lawyer's office says. Bryant was not in court yesterday.

Bryant is charged with criminal negligence causing death and dangerous driving in connection with the death of a cyclist last August. Police allege bike courier Darcy Allan Sheppard died after grabbing onto a car in downtown Toronto following a dispute with the driver.

Bryant was in charge of appointing Ontario judges and prosecutors when he was attorney general.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Style pg 35

A little piece of history

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XINHUA, REN XIAOGANG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An injured woman is rescued from the ruins of a building in China's Yushu county yesterday after a devastating earthquake.

Quake toll climbs

• 589 dead • 8,000 injured • 100,000 homeless

Rescuers combed through the rubble of collapsed buildings for survivors early today, more than a day after strong earthquakes shook a mountainous Tibetan region of China, killing nearly 600 people and injuring thousands.

The series of quakes flattened buildings across remote western Yushu county and sent survivors, many bleeding from their wounds, flooding into the streets of Jiegu township. State television showed block after devastated block of toppled mud and wood homes. Local officials said 85 per cent of the buildings had been destroyed.

Residents and troops garrisoned in the town used shovels and their hands to pull survivors and bodies from the rubble much of the day yesterday. Several schools collapsed, with the state news agency saying at least 56 students died. Worst hit was the Yushu Vocational School, where a local education official said 22 students, 20 of them girls, died.

State broadcaster CCTV showed footage of rescuers working at night, picking through the rubble aided by torchlights fixed to their safety helmets. A group of workers found a girl trapped for more than 12 hours under a heap of debris.

The death toll had risen to 589 by early today, with more than 8,000 others injured, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said. About 15,000 houses had collapsed and 100,000 people need to be relocated, it said.

Many survivors spent the night in the cold outdoors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6.9 The initial quake, measured at magnitude-6.9 by the U.S. Geological Survey and 7.1 by the China Earthquake Networks Center, hit Yushu at 7:49 a.m. It was followed by five more tremors within three hours, all but one registering magnitude-5.0 or higher.

Family of slain cop demands parole changes

PRIVACY The family of a police officer, who bled to death 30 years ago while his killer taunted police, pleaded yesterday for changes to privacy laws that hide information on which the murderer made a partially successful bid for parole.

Backed by police groups across the country, the widow and now grown children of Toronto Const. Michael Sweet said Craig Munro's prison records should be as public as the killing was.

Kim Sweet

"Everybody is so busy worrying about prisoner rights that they've forgotten about ours," said Kim Sweet, one of the officer's daughters. "When my dad was killed, I was sentenced to a life that will forever be marked by pain, sadness and a huge sense of loss."

In winning four unescorted passes into Kelowna, B.C., from his jail in Agassiz, B.C., Munro, 58, claimed to have reformed. He told a National Parole Board hearing he was drunk and high during the standoff, and didn't realize Sweet was dying.

Sweet's family believes otherwise, pointing out that a three-member parole board nixed his release bid a year ago believing he was still dangerous.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local

Dog who mauled child put down

An aggressive dog under the control of the Toronto Humane Society was put down yesterday after a long dispute over how to deal with the animal. Bandit — a pit bull cross — was the subject of a disagreement between the humane society's board, its new executive director and the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Bandit mauled a young child in 2003.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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INDEX
Canada Pg 9
World Pg 16
Comment Pg 20
Business Pg 22
Sports Pg 25
Metro Homes Pg 27
Style Pg 34
Entertainment Pg 37
Celebrity Buzz Pg 45
Take Five Pg 46

Correction

Wednesday's edition of Metro reported that Harry Connick Jr. would be performing at the Toronto Jazz Festival at Nathan Phillips Square with Chris Potter and Dave Holland. Connick is in fact slated to perform at the Canon Theatre during the festival, while Herbie Hancock will play in Nathan Phillips Square with Potter and Holland. Metro regrets the error.

Tomorrow's Metro

Urban Compass

John Sewell brings Metro readers the issues that are affecting Torontonians

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Blogs Sexcetera on the benefits of ignoring your shyness, and style columnist Kenya Hunt picks spring's best trench coats

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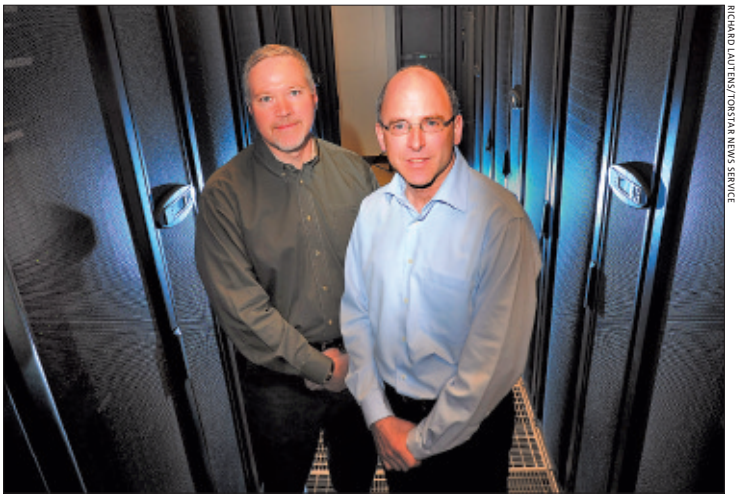
Global bank of cancer data released

Hundreds of scientists around the world got their first glimpse of findings from the largest ever global cancer research initiative when the initial collection of data, housed in Toronto, was released yesterday.

"It will be open to the world," said Dr. John McPherson, director of the cancer genome program at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

The Toronto-based institute is housing the data coordination centre for the International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC), which is undertaking an unprecedented collaborative effort to combat cancer.

The centre, located in the MaRs building on College Street, is creating what is predicted to become the largest health informatics database in the world. It will become a massive clearing house for findings from 20 research projects being undertaken in 11 countries — results that will be shared widely so scientists can quickly develop new tests and treatments for cancer.



RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario Institute for Cancer Research director Dr. John McPherson, left, and president Tom Hudson pose among computers yesterday that are part of the largest-ever global cancer research initiative.

The consortium has a 10-year plan to map the genetic mutations that drive 50 of the most common cancers.

"The data ... can be used immediately by researchers who are working on better ways of preventing, detecting, diagnosing and treating cancer," said Eric Lander, president of the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT and a member of the international consortium.

"The ability to identify the genetic changes in cancer is leading to new ways to devise therapies directed at the underlying cellular mechanisms of cancer and to target the right therapies to the right patients. We are moving into an era where the prescription for cancer treatment should be based on the genetics of each patient's tumour," he added.

In a paper published yesterday in the journal Nature, the consortium has laid out its plan to decode the genomes from 25,000 cancer samples and create a resource of freely available data to help cancer researchers around the world. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Memo lambasting McCallion goes public

"You appeared ungrateful, ungracious and downright rude."
Coun. Carolyn Parrish to Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion in a memo

POLITICS There was a chill at Mississauga city hall yesterday after a harshly worded memo by Coun. Carolyn Parrish was made public, in which she describes Mayor Hazel McCallion as "ungrateful, ungracious and downright rude."

Parrish's memo, sent to McCallion and copied to the rest of council last week, came after allegedly critical comments the mayor made regarding federal-provincial infrastructure funding at an event attended by the prime minister and the premier.

McCallion reportedly described the money going to a local project as a "drop in the bucket," saying the funding doesn't come close to addressing the needs of municipalities.

A furious Parrish wrote: "Typical of dozens of senior politicians who have been at the sharp end of your tongue in the past, and hoping to allay the always expected verbal onslaught, Mr. McGuinty began with flattery, calling you 'the most powerful politician in Canada.'

"Instead of responding with the grace and dignity benefitting an experienced and senior politician, you appeared ungrateful, ungracious and downright rude," she wrote.

The memo ends with Parrish telling McCallion she no longer controls council and does not speak for "most of this council."

During a council meeting break yesterday, McCallion called the criticism a "misunderstanding" of what she had told reporters. She said it was one of the most harshly worded memos she had received as mayor. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Obstruction charges withdrawn against 2 OPP officers: Activist

POLICE Activist Gary McHale says charges against two high-ranking Ontario Provincial Police officers who he claimed obstructed justice have been stayed.

Gary McHale

McHale says the Crown withdrew the charges because there was insufficient evidence to get a conviction.

A justice of the peace had issued criminal charges against deputy commissioner Chris Lewis and Supt. Ron Gentle.

McHale had previously filed a private information against OPP commissioner Julian Fantino, who faced one count of influencing or attempting to influence municipal officials.

He alleged that Fantino influenced elected officials in Caledonia, the site of a long-running aboriginal occupation in southwestern Ontario. Those charges were eventually withdrawn by the Crown.

McHale has been trying to have Fantino charged after the commissioner sent an email in April 2007, allegedly telling the mayor and councillors in Caledonia not to attend McHale's rallies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TTC driver facing assault charges

The Toronto Transit Commission's reputation suffered another blow yesterday as police said they will charge a TTC driver with assault after a fare dispute involving an 18-year-old male passenger. Facing assault charges is 30-year-old driver Hagos Bereket. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Ideological divide evident in bike-lane issue

Election talk swirling around cycling plans for city

With news that University Avenue is poised to become the next major route to get a cycling makeover, the bike lane battle has again taken over election chatter.

Rocco Rossi is against lanes on major routes. Joe Pantalone is for them. George Smitherman has avoided taking a solid stance.

Giorgio Mammoliti boldly announced yesterday that if elected mayor, he would introduce a $20-$30 registration fee for bikes.

"It's an agenda that seems to be taking over so far in this election. It's all about the downtown core and the downtown agenda, and the suburbs don't want to continue to subsidize these pet projects," he said. "If those that want to ride bikes want to continue to change infrastructure and cost the taxpayer $4 million a year, then they should pay for it."

Mammoliti's comments cut to the heart of the issue: The car vs. bike debate has little to do with transportation. This electoral wedge item is really just an emblem of every other ideological divide in the city: Rich vs. poor. Uptown vs. downtown. Right vs. left.

It's about the environment. The role of government. And somewhere under all those issues, there are practical concerns about commuting.

"Cycling should be a non-ideological, dare I say common-sense issue that spans the political spectrum. It should transcend left-right ideological divides. But in reality, it doesn't," said Myer Siemiatycki, a politics professor at Ryerson University.

"Some of it has to do with if your mindset is locked into the idea that the city is a place of business and efficiency," he said.

A right-wing point of view, municipally, means "putting the needs of business and development and growth first," he said.

"The left seems to have more concern, generically, for quality of life, the recognition of diverse and different needs and lifestyle."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cycling lobby

- The cycling lobby, stereotypically composed of downtown, left-wing voters, is a strong and valuable voting group. But so are affluent, more typically right-wing residents of Rosedale and Lawrence, who park their cars along tree-lined uptown streets and want to zip downtown to work.

Where the candidates stand on bike lanes on major roads

1 Are you in favour of bike lanes on major roads, such as Jarvis Street and University Avenue?

- Giorgio Mammoliti: "No."
- Joe Pantalone: "Yes on Jarvis and yes on University, if the pilot project is successful."
- Rocco Rossi: "No. No more new lanes on major arterial roads."
- George Smitherman: "The answer to this question isn't black and white. I'm in favour of no new lanes until an integrated, city-wide transportation plan is drafted."
- Sarah Thomson: "This is not a yes or no answer."
- Rob Ford: "No."

2 If no, would you remove the lanes if you are elected?

- Giorgio Mammoliti: "Yes. I can promise you this: When I'm the mayor of the City of Toronto, if they succeed with these bike lanes, I will take them down — and that will be the first thing that I do."
- Rocco Rossi: "Yes, I would remove these new lanes."
- George Smitherman: "No."
- Rob Ford: "No. It would be a waste of money to remove it if it's already there, that is unless there was a huge public outcry in the area."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Union Station **Avatar 'domination' a first**

PHOTO SUBMITTED

To promote the release of Avatar on DVD and Blue-Ray, Twentieth Century Fox has "taken over" Union Station with advertisements for the film. It's the first "domination" (or media buy) of its kind at the station — including both the north and sound ends — and features a large 3-D tree, artwork and monitors playing clips from the film. The "domination" continues until May 7.

Program for full-day kindergarten unveiled

EDUCATION Ontario has unveiled the program schools will use for full-day learning — it's a little bit kindergarten, a little bit day care and a whole lot of play.

Contrary to what some have feared — a sort of "Grade 1 lite" with tests and homework — the new curriculum simply gives children more time at the sand table, book corner and drama centre to learn the building blocks of the 3 Rs and how to play nicely with others.

"It's not like a little Grade 1 with tests and it's not just duplicating what they did in half-day kindergarten; it's a true blend of the best of kindergarten and the elements of early learning," said Michelle Despault, spokeswoman for Ontario's Education Ministry, which will oversee the first phase of the full-day program in September at 600 schools.

The program, which will be tweaked next year if problems arise, will ultimately replace the current kindergarten curriculum when full-day learning is fully rolled out in 2015. It introduces the basics of language, math, science, arts, physical activity and personal development — all through activity rooted in play.

> **"It's not like a little Grade 1 with tests and it's not just duplicating what they did in half-day kindergarten; it's a true blend of the best of kindergarten and the elements of early learning."**
> Michelle Despault, spokeswoman

The 111-page document, posted yesterday on the Education Ministry's website, is a hybrid of the existing kindergarten curriculum and a 2007 document designed for early-learning centres, called Early Learning for Every Child Today.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rooming house restoration to benefit psychiatric patients

SHELTER The burnt-out shell of a rooming house at 194 Dowling Ave. will open in December as Edmond Place, a 29-unit building for current and former psychiatric patients.

It was once a grand building, 194 Dowling, with 12 luxury apartments nestled behind its ornate façade.

But by the 1990s, it was a depressing rooming house, carved into 55 thin-walled Parkdale apartments that shared just eight or nine bathrooms. Toronto's most down-and-out lived there including paranoid schizophrenic Edmond Yu.

Yu was evicted in late 1996. By Feb. 20, 1997, he was dead, shot six times by police on a TTC bus after brandishing a hammer.

In 1998, fire raged through 194 Dowling. Two people died and 49 were left homeless, underscoring how fragile the city's housing situation is for the poor, especially those fighting mental-health problems.

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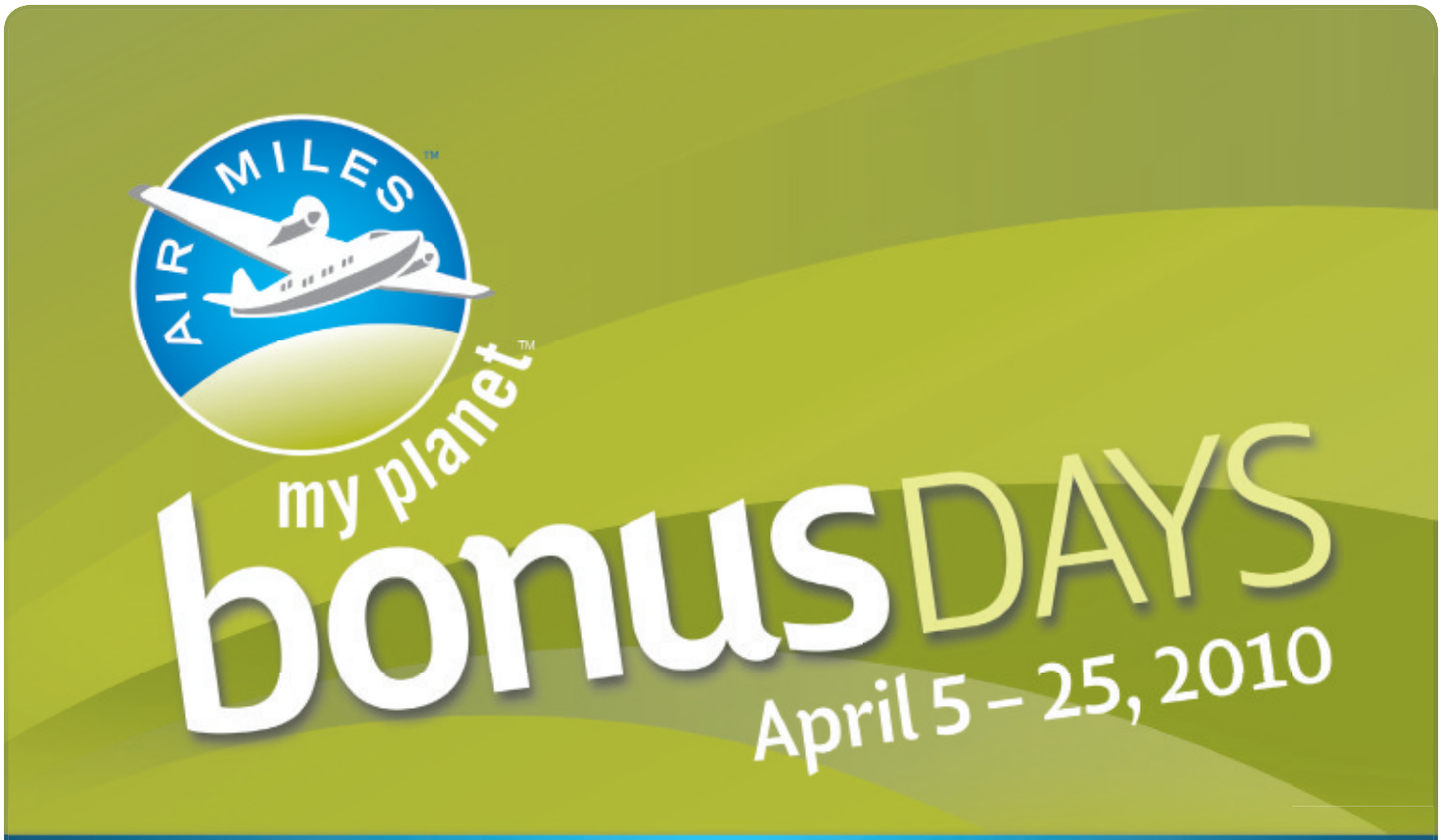

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Arrest warrants issued for two in connection with baby's death

Police have issued an arrest warrant for a man who has been reported missing after being charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of his three-month-old baby. Christopher Smith, 21, was released from custody on bail last Friday. An arrest warrant has been issued for Angele Bertrand, 20, who is wanted for harbouring Smith. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'They want to reprogram individuals'

Academics suspect that Toronto cultural centre tied to Iranian government

A group of academics wants a North York-based Iranian cultural organization to come clean about who funds it, fearing it's linked to Iran's anti-democratic Islamic government.

The Centre for Iranian Studies states it is a "non-government organization located in the centre of the Iranian district in Toronto, Canada," and that it supports scholars and others interested in Iranian culture.

But in its incorporation papers, filed Jan. 16, 2008, one of the three listed directors is Fazel Larijani, at the time cultural attaché with the Iranian embassy in Ottawa. He is the brother of Ali Larijani, speaker of the Iranian parliament and Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani, head of the country's judiciary.

While Fazel Larijani is still listed as a director of the group, the embassy said he has gone back to Iran.

Another listed director, Ali Mokhtari, said the centre is not active.

"I was a director on paper only. The main figure was Mr. Larijani, who I met in Iran around 2000, 2001," said Mokhtari, an immigration consultant in Montreal.

SAN GREWAL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Centre for Iranian Studies is located on Sheppard Avenue West in North York.

"This is a fake centre," said York University political science Prof. Saeed Rahnema, one of eight academics who recently sent an open letter to the centre asking for clarity about the directors, its funding and the nature of its scholarly work.

"They are using it as a front for different purposes," Rahnema said. "They are approaching students at York and other universities with offers to fund events and courses because the Iranian government is worried about the growing Iranian student bodies at York and other Canadian universities."

A York graduate who did not want to be named said two Iranian student groups on campus were approached by two centre "representatives" last November. "They wanted to fund Farsi courses, but when we asked where they got their money they wouldn't tell us. We ended it there."

> **"This is a fake centre ... they are using it ... for different purposes."**
> Saeed Rahnema, York University professor

The Centre for Iranian Studies operates a website, www.iranology.ca, runs free Farsi language courses and funds Iranian cultural events and scholarly endeavours, said its manager, Maryam Dousti.

Though Dousti initially said she was "the boss," after being pressed about some of the allegations she refused to answer any questions, stating she could forward them to "the board." She would not say how many people were on the board or give any names.

When it was pointed out the building, registered to a company with Fazel Larijani as its sole administrator, was paid off in cash for $827,000 and the cost of programming, staff and renting space for Farsi courses adds up to a lot of money for an organization that well-connected people in the community know little about, Dousti admitted where some of the funding comes from.

"We get some funding from the embassy, not regularly. But nobody can control our activities."

"The centre, very clearly, is linked to the Iranian government," said Mohamad Tavakoli, a professor in the University of Toronto's Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies.

"They want to get a foothold here."

He said that since last year's controversial Iranian elections, condemned by observers for the regime's heavy-handed tactics, the government has tried to infiltrate influential segments of the diaspora.

"Toronto is very important — the academics that flock here, the business class and the students. What worries me is that they have a governmental project of cultural engineering. They want to reprogram individuals."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Report: Change the way docs are paid

HEALTH CARE The province should overhaul the way doctors are paid so the profession gets a smaller chunk of health-care funding, says a coalition of health-care providers. The bold recommendation is contained in a report, to be released today, that calls for major changes to Ontario's health system to save billions of taxpayer dollars. The report, titled Bending the Cost Curve, was produced by the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres and the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs. An advance copy obtained by the Toronto Star notes that Ontario spends disproportionately more on physicians than other province.

Last year, physician expenditure in Ontario was $842 per capita, compared with $675 per capita in other provinces. Ontario would save $2.2 billion annually if its spending was in line with that of other provinces. The report urges the province to take more of a "business-case approach" to allotting scarce health-care dollars. Funding decisions should be based on evidence that shows good return on investment and better quality of patient care.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

COURTS A defence lawyer says a justice of the peace agreed to a request by the Crown yesterday to prohibit him from using a laptop in a Whitby courtroom despite their widespread use in courts around the GTA. "I have never heard of anything like this, especially when it relates to limiting the essential tools defence counsel require," defence lawyer Sean Robichaud said. His client's stunt-racing case was set for trial with all parties ready to proceed yesterday. But Robichaud said he had no choice but to ask for an adjournment because he "couldn't defend his client to the best of my ability." The case resumes Aug. 19.

QUEEN'S PARK Premier Dalton McGuinty is losing his chief of staff Peter Wilkinson — once nicknamed "Dr. No" for his answers to funding requests — as the Liberals look ahead to the October 2011 provincial election. After four years as the premier's top political staffer, the longtime Liberal loyalist and the older brother of Revenue Minister John Wilkinson leaves the post of his own accord May 1 for a part-time post at the University of Toronto. His replacement is McGuinty confidante Chris Morley, 33, who has risen from the premier's press secretary to executive director of communications for the government and played a key role in the 2007 re-election campaign.

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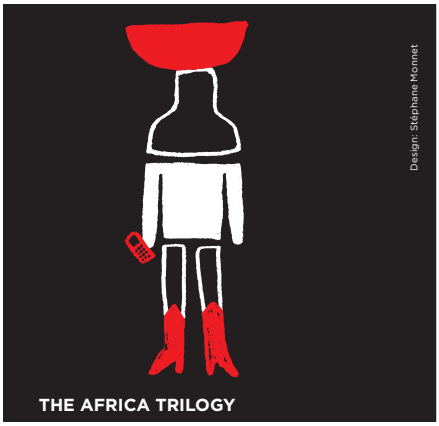
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Buckle up! Police launch seatbelt blitz

A provincial seatbelt campaign kicked off yesterday across Ontario as police try to crack down on deaths and injuries caused by not buckling up. Transport Minister Kathleen Wynne and other dignitaries were scheduled to attend the official launch yesterday at a local school. THE CANADIAN PRESS

York U rapist gets eight-year jail sentence

A 27-year-old man who raped two young women while roaming the corridors of a York University residence looking for sexual "prey" received an eight-year prison sentence yesterday.

In January, on the eve of his trial, Daniel Katsnelson pleaded guilty to one count of sexual assault causing bodily harm and one count of sexual assault for the attacks at the Vanier residence early on Sept. 7, 2007.

That night, Katsnelson and his longtime friend, Justin Connort, were drinking near campus when they decided to enter the residence. Katsnelson graduated from York in 2006.

They walked door to door looking for female students. Katsnelson admitted he raped two women, B.M. and C.C., who was under 18.

Daniel Katsnelson, convicted of the York University rapes, is seen in a trailer for a student movie.

"Mr. Katsnelson did not violate the sexual integrity of just one young woman that morning. After forcing sexual intercourse on C.C., as she lay crying in her bed, Mr. Katsnelson continued to roam the corridors of the Vanier residence looking for more victims and eventually raping a second one," Justice Ian MacDonnell said, reading from his 14-page ruling.

MacDonnell said the three- to five-year sentence proposed by the defence was "inadequate" while a 10-year sentence sought by the Crown did not give "sufficient weight to Mr. Katsnelson's prior positive history and to his potential for rehabilitation."

It was significant that the offences were not crimes of opportunity "but rather the product of a premeditated trespass into a university dormitory. Katsnelson and Connort regarded the teenagers living there as "sexual prey," the judge said.

Their vulnerability "is shared by thousands of 17- and 18-year-olds who leave home every year to attend college and universities across the country."

Connort, who pleaded guilty to sexual assault, received a three-year sentence but MacDonnell said there were significant differences in their roles.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Doctor who believes MS linked to blocked neck veins preaching caution

HEALTH An Italian doctor who believes multiple sclerosis may be triggered by blocked neck veins defended his theory at a meeting of international neurologists yesterday, but at the same time sounded a cautionary note to patients desperate for a cure.

Dr. Paolo Zamboni's theory that narrowed neck veins cause blood-borne iron deposits to build up and damage brain cells has created a tidal wave of interest within the MS community, with patients around the world scrambling for a treatment the vascular specialist pioneered.

Neither that link nor the therapy — an unblocking of veins with balloon angioplasty that Zamboni has dubbed the "liberation treatment" — has been proven in testing on large numbers of subjects, a process that has long been the hallmark of evidence-based medical care.

But that hasn't stopped MS patients worldwide from travelling to clinics in countries such as Poland, which have popped up offering to diagnose chronic cerebro-spinal venous insufficiency, or CCSVI, and to provide the controversial treatment for those willing to fork out thousands of dollars.

"This is really a work in progress," conceded Zamboni, speaking to a roomful of journalists and neurologists at the Toronto meeting, as well as more than 4,000 people hooked up to the proceedings online.

"We have proved the association," asserted Zamboni, who conducted a study on a small number of MS patients in Italy.

Still, he cautioned MS patients online for the webinar that it's important the liberation treatment be rigorously tested by many groups of scientists around the world to prove it is safe and effective.

He also said he is against the use of stents — mesh cylinders used to prop open blood vessels to prevent re-narrowing — because they migrate and their long-term effects inside veins are unknown.

Zamboni, who has moved in a short time from obscure researcher to a medical superstar among the international MS community, urged people with the disease to follow his advice — and not that of "blogger patients."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MS: The numbers

- An estimated 2.5 million people worldwide, including 55,000 to 75,000 Canadians, have multiple sclerosis.

Abduction attempt in west end

SUSPECT Police are investigating an attempted abduction after a man tried to lure a 13-year-old girl near her Etobicoke school yesterday. The girl was on her way to Park Lawn Junior Middle School around 9 a.m. when the man called out to her. Investigators were called in after the girl told her principal.

"You never know what people's motives are, but considering the age difference, it's not something you should be doing," said Staff Sgt. Glen Dewling.

He added the girl was not injured and the suspect did not threaten to hurt her.

Officers are looking for a white man in his 40s, wearing dark clothing and sunglasses, and driving an older model light-blue van with tinted windows.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harper to join Obama, Sarkozy and Medvedev at Polish president's funeral

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will join U.S. President Barack Obama, France's Nicolas Sarkozy and Russia's Dmitri Medvedev in Krakow this weekend at a state funeral for Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife who were among 96 people killed Saturday in a plane crash in western Russia. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Youth in need get a patron

Former Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage has been appointed to help the province address the needs of aboriginal children and youth. Beaucage will provide advice on aboriginal child welfare issues for one year. About 21 per cent of Ontario's 9,000 Crown wards are aboriginal children and youth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVID ROSSITER, LETHBRIDGE HERALD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crews hustle to stop flooding on a bridge over the Oldman River in Lethbridge, Alta.

See what you're missing, T.O.

BRRR! As Toronto enjoyed a mild spring day, southern Alberta was socked with heavy wet snow and whipping winds.

Tens of thousands of people were without power as winter returned with a wallop.

The mayor of Lethbridge advised 90,000 residents to leave the streets free and wait out a widespread power outage that hit the city and surrounding area.

"We are in emergency response mode," said Bob Tarleck.

"The schools are closed. The college is closed. The hospital is operating on emergency power, so they're not doing any elective surgery," he said.

"We're just hunkering down and we'll try to wait this out." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guergis the fighter

She vows to counter 'rumours gone amok'

Helena Guergis says she's shocked by a new twist in her saga — and will fight back.

A media report suggested the prime minister turfed her from the Tory caucus after hearing about a drug-related matter.

"This is completely ridiculous and an example of rumours gone amok," Guergis said yesterday.

"This is completely ridiculous."
Helena Guergis

CTV News reported a licensed investigator came across information related to the purchase and use of drugs and the potential threat of blackmail.

But CTV said it was not clear to whom the allegations pertained.

Police sources said the investigator passed the allegations along to a Tory lawyer, who alerted Stephen Harper, prompting the PM to ask the RCMP to investigate.

Guergis has got a lawyer. "I intend to defend myself to the fullest extent." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Premier hints at police error

JAFFER Premier Dalton McGuinty suggested police made mistakes during last September's arrest of Rahim Jaffer — Helena Guergis' husband.

Charges of drunk driving and possession of cocaine were withdrawn by the Crown. And McGuinty said: "I have confidence that the Crown made the right decision given the circumstances."

In the end, Jaffer, 38, pleaded guilty to careless driving. He was fined $500. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Oshawa auto parts plant to lay off 100 workers

Auto parts supplier Automodular Corp. says it will close a plant in Oshawa and lay off 100 workers. The move comes after General Motors Canada cancelled a contract with Automodular to supply parts and services for the assembly of the Camaro muscle car at its Oshawa plant. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldier **Paying tribute to the fallen**

PETER REDMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Family members look on yesterday as the casket carrying Pte. Tyler William Todd from the 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton is carried from the military aircraft during a repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton. The 26-year-old soldier was killed on the weekend by a powerful roadside bomb just outside a village south of Kandahar city.

Ex-translator shocks Afghan committee

Alleges troops tried to cover up killing

A former army translator shocked a parliamentary committee yesterday with explosive allegations against Canadian troops — including that they killed an innocent Afghan teen and tried to cover it up.

But Malgarai Ahmadshah, former language and cultural adviser to the commander of Canada's Joint Task Force Afghanistan unit, acknowledged that much of his information was second hand and he couldn't offer any proof to back up his claims.

He also wouldn't repeat his allegations outside the committee room, where he was no longer protected by parliamentary privilege.

"After the Canadian Forces wrongly killed a man, they panicked. They swept through the neighbourhood, arresting people for no reason."
Malgarai Ahmadshah, former translator

Inside, Ahmadshah claimed Canadian soldiers shot a 17-year-old boy in the back of the head in a village north of Kandahar in the summer of 2007. He said they shot the teen because they thought he had a gun.

He also alleged the soldiers tried to cover up the alleged murder by rounding up men in the village.

"After the Canadian Forces wrongly killed a man, they panicked. They swept through the neighbourhood, arresting people for no reason," he said.

Ahmadshah later told the committee that he wasn't in the village when the teen was allegedly killed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Civic life? There's an app for that

TECH You've got a hankering for Lebanese, but the falafel looks awful at the local shawarma shop.

If software developer Edward Ocampo-Gooding gets his way, the shop's health inspection records could be sent to your smartphone in seconds.

Ocampo-Gooding was standing outside one of his favourite Ottawa shawarma shops wondering if it was among those recently cited for violating food safety guidelines.

So he and three other software developers created a program that would scrape that kind of information from the City of Ottawa's website, which could be delivered to your BlackBerry or iPhone on demand.

And if he could find restaurant inspection reports by thumbing his smartphone, why couldn't he find out if tomorrow's garbage pickup included newspapers or compost, if his local councillor voted against closing the school next year or where the nearest water fountain is located.

"Everyone lives in a city, and everyone wants to fix something," Ocampo-Gooding said.

Municipal officials in Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton and other cities across the country are unlocking the previously sealed doors on this kind of data at city hall.

Cities collect data on all municipal services they provide, but finding the information you need can require hours of digging through a city's website or phoning officials.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

BOAT CRASH U.S. and Canadian police are investigating a collision between an American Coast Guard vessel and a power boat during a chase on the St. Lawrence River. U.S. Coast Guard officials say four crew members aboard the patrol boat and two men on the power boat were injured in Monday night's crash near the Seaway International Bridge in Massena. One official said yesterday the chase started when an RCMP vessel tried to stop the power boat as it travelled at high speed with no running lights. Two men, both from the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, were hospitalized.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ignatieff gives thumbs down to health-care user fees

HEALTH Michael Ignatieff says a Liberal government wouldn't allow provinces to impose health-care user fees.

His assertion amounts to a reversal for the Liberal leader, who initially gave thumbs up to a Quebec proposal to charge $25 for each visit to a doctor's office.

Ignatieff originally said the proposal conformed with the Canada Health Act, which prohibits user fees and empowers the federal government to financially penalize provinces that impose them.

He now says he was only applauding the Quebec government's intention to find a solution to escalating health-care costs within the framework of the health act.

But he says, as far as the Liberal party is concerned, the act does not permit user fees of any kind.

The user-fee proposal was part of the recent Quebec budget, which also introduced a new annual health premium, which would start at $25 this year, rising to $200 in 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Craig picks up broadband radio licence

Craig Wireless Systems Ltd. said yesterday it has been awarded a broadband radio service licence for the Vancouver region, a key condition of its wireless spectrum sale to a partnership owned by Rogers and Bell Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier watches drugstore health

TORONTO Premier Dalton McGuinty will keep an eye on the impact of his drug changes on small pharmacies, but says his real concern is the cost of prescription drugs — not the industry's well-being.

The province is locked in an escalating battle with big drugstores over a plan to eliminate fees paid to pharmacists in a bid to lower the cost of generic drugs. But it's the smaller and independent pharmacies that rely on drug sales that stand to lose the most since they don't sell as many other goods to offset the revenue loss. What really matters, McGuinty says, is access to affordable drugs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Farewell to GG in fall

Michaëlle Jean has confirmed that her five-year term as Governor General will not be extended beyond its scheduled conclusion in September, officially signalling the end of what has been a lively chapter in the history of a traditionally staid institution.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean is greeted by Senator Woreye Sarr yesterday as she arrives in Senegal, Africa.

It was a reign that began in controversy over suspicions she was a separatist; she broke into a spontaneous dance in Parliament on the day she was sworn in; butchered a seal with the Inuit and gobbled down a slice of its heart; wept publicly for her Haitian homeland; and earned adoring reactions abroad.

She concludes her term with lofty popularity levels that, according to one recent poll, would be the envy of just about any public figure. There had been whispers that the government was seeking a successor. Yesterday, Jean herself confirmed the worst-kept secret in Canadian politics: Her term won't be extended, as was the case with her predecessor Adrienne Clarkson.

The Governor General touched down in Senegal yesterday for a 10-day state visit to sub-Saharan Africa.

Jean now begins a trip to four countries, including war-ravaged Congo, where an estimated five million people have been killed in ongoing conflicts. "These people are the great forgotten," Jean said of Africa's war victims. "We need to go meet them."

She will also visit Rwanda and Cape Verde.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drug manufacturer charged in technician's death

HALIFAX Nova Scotia's Labour Department has laid five health and safety charges against a drug manufacturer after the death of a technician who handled a chemical compound.

Roland Daigle died in hospital on Oct. 7, 2008, after being exposed to chemical vapours of trimethylsilyl diazomethane at his Sepracor workstation in Windsor, N.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Computer spending on the rebound
Spending on personal computers by consumers and businesses looks like it's on the rebound. IDC Canada personal computing analyst Tim Brunt says consumers are returning to buying more expensive PCs, such as laptops with better processors. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pension top-up not ideal: Minister

Ontario's finance minister says the province's multi-million-dollar top-up to the Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund was not an ideal solution to the pension crisis.

But Dwight Duncan says the alternative — a significant loss of retirement security for thousands of Ontario seniors — would have been worse.

The government announced the $500-million top-up in its March budget to help the fund deal with a soaring number of insolvent pensions, including a big one involving Nortel.

Dwight Duncan

The guarantee, which is supposed to be fully funded by corporate contributions, provides beneficiaries of Ontario's private pensions with up to $1,000 a month in the event a pension plan fails to provide its full benefits, or any at all.

The minister says the government's next stage of pension modernization will come later this year, including two pension-reform bills to be introduced in the legislature.

The minister will also meet with his provincial counterparts in June to discuss retirement-income security.

Governments and the business world are struggling to head off a potential future pension crisis stemming from an aging workforce.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SENTENCING A Vancouver man has been sentenced to life in prison in the death of his two-year-old step-daughter, who died after being repeatedly punched in the stomach. David Carl Sunshine was convicted of second-degree murder in the 2005 death of Isabella Rain-Ayala. The Crown said he had beat the toddler and burned her with a cigarette lighter.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dutch murder convict exonerated

JUSTICE A Dutch nurse who served more than six years of a life sentence for allegedly murdering seven patients was exonerated yesterday, and the country's attorney general personally apologized for her ordeal.

Trial

- Dutch Attorney General Harm Brouwers said prosecutors had acted in good faith in what he called a "complicated" case, but had relied on testimony by experts who proved mistaken.

Lucy de Berk, who spent her teenage years in Canada, was released from prison in 2008 pending retrial after an extraordinary review of her conviction — which had been upheld by the country's Supreme Court.

Prosecutors recognized errors in the case and had asked for an acquittal at the end of her retrial last month.

A beaming De Berk, 49, told reporters she was delighted after the verdict was read at Arnhem Appeals Court.

Attorney General Harm Brouwers said he wanted to restore De Berk's reputation.

De Berk, who had a history of depression and worked as a prostitute in Vancouver and the Netherlands, was arrested in 2001 after a six-month-old baby died while De Berk was on duty in a hospital in The Hague, in an incident initially thought to have been a poisoning.

After De Berk's arrest, investigators uncovered what they saw as a trend of deaths and near-deaths in suspicious circumstances while she was alone with patients.

Prosecutors charged her with 13 killings and five attempted murders in Dutch hospitals between 1997 and 2001.

She was convicted of three murders in 2003 and sentenced to life in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians feel pinch of higher borrowing costs

The Bank of Canada has yet to officially start raising interest rates. But in the past two weeks, big banks have already twice raised longer-term mortgage rates and analysts say the expectation is the central bank will boost rates between June 1 and July 20. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty frowns on big bank taxes

G20 TALKS Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says Canada won't go along with an international bank tax even if it is isolated on the issue.

Flaherty's position comes in advance of ministerial meetings in Washington next week and a leaders' summit in Toronto in June. The idea of taxing banks has been gaining steam in Europe and the U.S. as a means of penalizing institutions that triggered the global recession and of creating a cushion against future crises.

Flaherty says he has proposed an insurance fund against system risk termed "embedded contingent capital."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charest pins hopes on top judge

INQUIRY Facing a career-threatening crisis, Quebec Premier Jean Charest is hoping a former Supreme Court justice can clear his government of allegations it let party bagmen influence provincial court appointments.

Michel Bastarache has been handed the task of sorting through explosive allegations by a former Quebec justice minister who says Liberal fundraisers pressured him to appoint certain judges in 2003 and 2004.

Marc Bellemare's claims have thrown the Liberals into turmoil and cast a cloud of suspicion over Quebec's justice system.

Charest said Bellemare's accusations have "stained the credibility of the courts" and forced the government to defend its reputation.

"As they are a very important part of democracy we thought it was equally important to get to the heart of the matter," Charest told reporters in Quebec City.

Bastarache, who sat on the country's highest court between 1997 and 2008, will head a public inquiry into how the province appoints its judges.

He has also been given the right to recommend changes to the selection process.

Quebec's opposition parties immediately rejected the inquiry's mandate as too narrow, calling instead for a broader public inquiry into alleged ties between the construction industry and the Liberals.

The government has asked Bastarache to wrap up his findings by Oct. 15.

The selection of a former Supreme Court justice and the relatively short timeline of his inquiry hint at just how seriously Charest is taking the threat posed by Bellemare's allegations.

Bastarache signed more than 150 Supreme Court rulings and was known particularly for his passion for minority rights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michelle Awad, lawyer for Halifax's top firefighters, won her case yesterday to reveal online identities.

Secret sources lose battle in Halifax court

A Nova Scotia judge has ordered a newspaper and Google Inc. to cough up whatever details they possess about the identities of people who posted comments anonymously about Halifax's top firefighters.

Halifax fire Chief Bill Mosher and Deputy Chief Stephen Thurber are considering a lawsuit against people who posted critical comments about them on the website of the Coast, a weekly newspaper.

The comments were in a discussion forum and were related to stories published in the paper about racism in the fire department.

They are also considering a lawsuit against the author of emails about them who used a Gmail account.

Justice Heather Robertson of Nova Scotia Supreme Court quickly granted the uncontested application by the lawyer for the firefighters.

Robertson said people who post comments anonymously have to be held to account for their actions.

Kyle Shaw, editor and co-founder of the Coast, said his newspaper will comply with the order and provide the names and email addresses of the commentators once a formal request is received.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

OBITUARY Former Canadian wrestling great Gene Kiniski, the king of the ring in the late 1960s, has died. He was 81. Kiniski died at his home in Blaine, Wash., from cancer, according to friends and family. He often played the villain and was known for his stamina. The high point of his career came in 1966, when he defeated Lou Thesz in St. Louis to capture the National Wrestling Alliance world heavyweight championship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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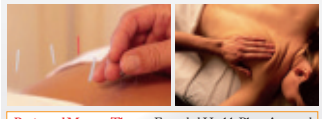

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Emergency space walk needed?
NASA is considering whether an emergency spacewalk by the crew of space shuttle Discovery is needed to clear a stuck valve in a critical cooling loop at the International Space Station, officials said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Bank chief: Time to retire 'Third World'

The head of the World Bank says it is time to stop using the term "Third World" to refer to developing countries and recognize they are an essential part of a new, fast evolving, multipolar international economy. Robert Zoellick, left, said the global economic crisis of 2009 showed the categorization of First and Third Worlds, donor and supplicant, leader and led no longer fit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indonesia **Bloody protests**

CHRIS BLAKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police beat an Indonesian youth yesterday during a violent protest in Jakarta. Protesters wielding machetes, sticks and gas bombs clashed with police in a series of running battles over a Muslim cleric's tomb near the capital's main seaport, leaving two people dead and some 130 wounded.

Deadly cyclone rips through India

A cyclone packing winds of more than 160 km/h demolished tens of thousands of mud huts in northeastern India, killing at least 89 villagers, officials said yesterday.

The cyclone struck close to midnight Tuesday in northeastern parts of West Bengal and Bihar states, uprooting trees and snapping telephone and electricity lines, West Bengal Civil Defence Minister Srikumar Mukherjee said. Hundreds of people were injured and many thousands left homeless.

Devesh Chandra Thakur, Bihar state's Minister for Disaster Management, said there was no cyclone warning from the weather department, so villagers were unprepared.

160 KM/H
Wind speed of cyclone in northeastern India.

Television footage showed uprooted trees lying across shanties and sheets of corrugated metal ripped from the roofs of homes. Small children sat outside their damaged huts as parents tried to salvage their belongings from inside.

Namita Biswas, 51, a housewife in West Bengal, told The Associated Press by phone she and her husband were sleeping in their hut when it was crushed by a tree that broke from the impact of the cyclone. Her husband was killed.

The cyclone demolished nearly 50,000 mud huts in West Bengal and thousands more in Bihar, officials said.

The worst-hit villages in West Bengal state were Hematabad, Raiganj and Kiran Dighi, where police and rescue teams have recovered 39 bodies, Ramanuj Chakraborty, a senior local official told The Associated Press.

Another 50 people were killed in the northeastern Bihar districts of Araria, Kishenganj and Purnea, according to government officials.

A prison wall collapsed in Bihar's Araria district, forcing authorities to shift more than 600 inmates to another prison, officials said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unity begins to fray after crash

POLAND The sense of unity spawned by the plane crash that killed Poland's president and dozens of other leaders has begun to fray, with controversy flaring over the choice of a burial site and suspicion spreading about the cause of the accident.

Aviation experts say the probe of the crash is moving relatively quickly but some Poles are complaining about a lack of public information, including the transcript of conversation in the cockpit before the accident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glacial volcano erupts again

ICELAND A volcano under a glacier in Iceland erupted yesterday for the second time in less than a month, melting ice, spewing smoke and steam, closing a major road and forcing hundreds of people to flee rising floodwaters.

Authorities evacuated 800 residents from around the Eyjafjallajokull glacier as rivers rose by up to three metres.

Emergency officials and scientists said the eruption under the ice cap was 10 to 20 times more powerful than one last month, and carried a much greater risk of widespread flooding.

"This is a very much more violent eruption, because it's interacting with ice and water," said Andy Russell, an expert in glacial flooding at the University of Newcastle in northern England. "It becomes much more explosive, instead of a nice lava flow oozing out of the ground."

Rognvaldur Olafsson, a chief inspector for the Icelandic Civil Protection Agency, said no lives or properties were in immediate danger.

There were no immediate signs of large clouds of volcanic ash, which could disrupt air travel between Europe and North America. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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News in brief

BIN LADEN Under fire from Republican critics, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said yesterday the U.S. still aims to capture and interrogate Osama bin Laden, but expects the al-Qaida leader won't be taken alive. The attorney general was on the defensive from the outset in his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, peppered with criticism over his handling of terrorism issues, including the planned shutdown of the Guantanamo Bay detention centre and where those suspects should be sent for trial. He said remarks he made last month that bin Laden would not face trial stemmed from reports that his security guards are under instructions not to let him be taken alive.

BOSNIA President Ivo Josipovic apologized yesterday for Croatia's role in the Bosnian War, offering the clearest message of reconciliation to date from any leader of the three nationalities involved in Europe's bloodiest conflict since the Second World War. Bosnian President Haris Silajdzic in turn praised relations with Croatia. As Yugoslavia was falling apart in the 1990s, the leaders of its republics of Serbia and Croatia planned to carve up Bosnia — positioned between them — and annex half each. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tale of two cities: No gay marriage
Italy's constitutional court has rejected bids to have gay marriage recognized in two northern cities, Venice and Trento. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Padded bikini for kids draws scorn

A major British clothing retailer withdrew a children's bathing suit from sale yesterday after a front-page tabloid story revealed it was selling padded bras on bikinis aimed at seven-year-olds.

The bikinis angered children's advocates and candidates in Britain's upcoming election, who say it was yet another product that sexualizes children and encourages them to grow up too fast.

"It's a shame it was ever put on the shelves in the first place," said Justine Roberts, founder of the Mumsnet, a parenting website that attracts a large, vocal audience.

Announcing the immediate withdrawal of the product, Primark promised to donate any profits already earned from the item to a children's charity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palin **Hey, get outta my email!**

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The son of a Democratic state legislator is charged with hacking former Alaska governor Sarah Palin's email account and will go on trial next week in Tennessee. Palin has been subpoenaed and will testify, officials say.

Missing girl found in swamp

FLORIDA The little girl's voice on the 911 call was faint yet cheerful, letting central Florida police know that after four days of searching and lots of prayer, they had found missing 11-year-old Nadia Bloom.

"Hi. This is Nadia and I'm the girl that got lost," she said Tuesday from deep inside an alligator-infested swamp in Winter Springs.

The fifth-grader, who has Asperger's syndrome, a type of autism-related disorder, was found by a man who attends the same church as her family, police said. James King said she was in a dry patch in the middle of the swamp.

King said the girl had bug bites yet "no major injuries, just exposure." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Honduras concedes land to protesting farmers
The Honduran government reached a deal yesterday to grant 27,000 acres of land to thousands of farm workers occupying commercial plantations in a standoff that raised fears of unrest nearly a year after a coup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hamas rulers shut down passageways to Egypt

Hamas temporarily closed Gaza's smuggling tunnels in response to an Israeli warning of a plot to kidnap Israelis from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and drag them into Gaza through the underground passageways, officials said yesterday.

The unprecedented step briefly cut off a key economic lifeline to the blockaded Palestinian territory, ruled by the Islamic militant Hamas since its violent takeover in 2007.

A senior Hamas government official said the cross-border tunnels were closed at the request of Egypt, which relayed the Israeli concerns. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss contacts with Egypt.

Another Hamas official said the decision was also partly prompted by concerns that Israel could bomb the tunnels under the Egypt-Gaza border. Hamas, increasingly isolated, may also have wanted to avoid further friction with Israel and Egypt.

The order came just hours after Israel told its citizens to leave Sinai, saying it had evidence that militants were trying to abduct Israelis and possibly take them to Gaza. The tunnels would be the only route to drag captives into Gaza.

Tunnel workers were told late Tuesday by Hamas to leave the smuggling areas on the border, smugglers and security officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India **Pilgrimage turns tragic**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

An Indian policeman tries in vain to rescue a child yesterday after Hindu worshippers were caught in a stampede at the Kumbh Mela festival in Haridwar, India. At least three people drowned as hundreds of thousands of Hindu pilgrims took dips in the waters of the Ganges River.

Gunman kills four in Chicago

SPREE A gunman opened fire on a house in Chicago early yesterday, killing a woman and three children — including a 7-year-old boy — police said.

The gunman, who was later arrested several miles away, told police he went on the shooting spree after hearing voices that told him to kill members of his family, a person close to the investigation said.

Police believe the gunman is related to the victims. Chicago police spokeswoman Amina Greer said the shooting may have been the result of a domestic situation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

SENTENCING A judge has sentenced an Iowa man to life in prison after the family of slain high school football coach Ed Thomas gave tearful testimony about the impact of Thomas' murder. Mark Becker was convicted March 2 of first-degree murder, which carries an automatic life sentence without parole. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Do You Want Beautiful Hair?

My name is Marianne Schneider. I am 54 years old and I have had hair problems as long as I can remember. I have experimented with an endless array of shampoos, sprays, hair treatments and conditioners and I have spent an enormous amount of money in hair salons. But all those efforts were to no avail... the results didn't last more than a few hours, at best.

When I was 49 it got even worse - one day I started shedding large tufts of hair. I consulted doctors and had my hormone status analyzed. I tried Schuessler salts and body detox therapy, none of which had any lasting effect. Finally, I had my hair cut short and only ventured into public wearing a head scarf because, by now I had so little hair left that my scalp was clearly visible. My friends pretended not to notice and told me it wasn't that bad. Sometimes though, I caught them sneaking glances at my head. And those stares at the supermarket or at the cinema –sometimes it was simply unbearable.

About three years ago, I met a woman who took me aside and asked, "Do you have a problem with your hair? Have you ever heard of silica?"

Then she told me her own tale of woe, she said, "I had the same problem as you. Three years ago I suffered a lot of stress in my job and personal life and I started losing all of my hair. My daughter suggested that I try Original Silicea Balsam." This woman told me it took about three months, but you know, her hair looked remarkable!

So I tried Original Silicea Balsam and before long my hair actually started to grow back! In time it became much thicker and it felt much stronger. After about six months my hair had a wonderful shine and it looked very healthy. Now I have the beautiful hair I have been dreaming of all of my life. Although I am still the object of sneaky glances, and again it's because of my hair - but now I revel in those glances admiring my beautiful, healthy hair.

Marianne Schneider

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Dozens killed in deadly Egyptian road accidents
Egyptian officials say 25 people were killed in two road accidents in the country's south. Both cases involved parked trucks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HADI MIZBAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi army soldiers inspect the site of a warehouse bomb in Baghdad yesterday, part of the latest wave of attacks in the capital that left five people dead.

Al-Qaida plot foiled

Iraqi security forces disrupted a 9-11-style plot by al-Qaida in Iraq to fly hijacked planes into Shiite religious shrines, Iraqi and U.S. officials said yesterday.

Iraqi security officials said they temporarily shut down at least two airports and have arrested two men — one of the intended pilots and an airport worker — suspected in the plot, which appeared aimed at undermining the country's stability while U.S. troops prepare to go home.

Two U.S. intelligence officials in Washington confirmed the plot but said it did not appear to be fully planned out, nor was it clear that militants would be able to carry out any attacks. Both U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still underway.

Airports in Baghdad and Najaf were shuttered last week as intelligence officials said they learned of the plot. The airport in Najaf remains closed because of its proximity to the gold-domed Imam Ali shrine, one of the most revered Shiite religious mosques in the world, one of the officials said.

Iraqi Defence Minister Abdul-Qader al-Obeidi told reporters in Najaf that the airport "will be reopened soon, after discussing the needed security measures." He said the intelligence about the attacks is unclear but "at the same time, we can't neglect them."

He did not confirm or comment on any of the specific allegations.

Al-Qaida in Iraq has been blamed for a recent violence in Baghdad, and security officials believe the terror network is trying to regroup during the political disarray left by the March 7 parliamentary elections, which failed to produce a clear winner.

The alleged plot also comes as American forces plan to send home all but 50,000 troops by Aug. 31, with the rest scheduled to follow by the end of 2011 as required by a U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. Targeting holy sites has long been a hallmark of the Sunni-dominated al-Qaida in Iraq to stoke sectarian retaliation and bring Iraq back to the brink of civil war.

In central Baghdad, a bomb went off at about 2 p.m. inside a warehouse, killing three people and wounding six, according to police and hospital officials. The bomb, which was left in the basement of the warehouse, also caused damage to nearby buildings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentina seeks Civil War probe

COURT Argentine human rights groups turned the tables on Spain yesterday, asking for a local judicial probe of murders and disappearances as well as alleged genocide committed during Spain's Civil War and Gen. Francisco Franco's long dictatorship.

Relatives of three Spaniards and an Argentine killed during the 1936-39 war presented their complaint in federal court, and their lawyers said they hoped to add many more cases in coming months. The complaint adds an overall charge of genocide, alleging that Franco ordered the systematic elimination of his political opponents, an order they say remained in effect until 1977.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian scribe's tomb tells story of neighbours

EGYPT The elaborate tomb of an ancient royal scribe has been unearthed in a discovery that will help illuminate the relationship between Egypt and its eastern neighbours, the antiquities chief said yesterday.

The intricately decorated tomb belonging to Ken-Amun, who was in charge of overseeing the royal records during the 19th Dynasty (1315-1201 BC), was unearthed in the village of Tell el-Maskhuta, 120 kilometres east of Cairo, said Zahi Hawass, head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Tell el-Maskhuta was a settlement in the Ismailia governorate containing a garrison that supplied and armed the ancient Egyptian army before the troops went on military campaigns east of the border.

Ken-Amun's tomb is that first Ramesside tomb to be discovered in Lower Egypt and is built from mud brick. The wall's inscriptions tell that the scribe's wife was called Isis and worked as a musician for the God Atum. A large limestone pillar also was discovered depicting the God Set, the god of darkness and chaos, in front of the 19th Dynasty king of the time, whose name was not written. On the same pillar, the name of the capital of the Hyskos — an Asiatic people who invaded the eastern Nile Delta in the 12th Dynasty was found.

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Comment

This homework sounds appealing

Relating

You learn so much on this beat. I'm informed, for example, that April is "Couple Appreciation Month." No doubt you already have big plans.

If the idea of yet another contrived opportunity to fall short of your partner's expectations — one with a duration 30 times that of Valentine's Day — infuses you with a certain familiar dread, I can assure you that you are not alone.

Sex therapist Teesha Morgan, online host of the K-Y Intimacy Experiment, tried to allay my panic by explaining the difference.

"Valentine's Day is more of a singular day that has a lot to do with the female, you know, wooing the girlfriend or the wife, or buying her flowers," she says. "I think Couple Appreciation is more of a joint thing for the man and woman. And longer lasting."

The K-Y Intimacy Experiment is an attempt to help couples rediscover what got them together in the first place.

It began in December with a survey of about 1,000 couples in relationships of three years or more. Of the respondents, 56 per cent reported their sex lives had taken a dive over time. Ninety per cent said they'd be willing to try something new, but few knew what.

That's where Morgan's experiment comes in. She takes three couples through a 12-week course of exercises designed to get them out of their usual routines and, hopefully, back into each other.

Watching the episodes online, it's light, fun viewing, employing many familiar reality TV tropes as couples take dance lessons, learn massage techniques and go shopping for lingerie together.

"Sometimes we get in little ruts in our relationships and throughout life, and being able to spice things up with even something simple like buying a new type of lingerie and going outside of your box can make huge strides in a relationship," Morgan tells me. "Bringing back that little spark of something new I think is really important. You can't do the same thing over and over again and expect different results, right?"

You can check out the K-Y Experiment and download homework assignments for couples at youtube.com/ky.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.

Views

Left? Right? Honk if you have an opinion

FourthWave

I took a road trip this past weekend to the political heart of America: Washington, D.C. I knew I'd be in for some political amusement, between the circus of health-care reform, teabaggers, and financial meltdown.

And how! Seemingly everywhere I turned everyone had opinions, flapping flags or placards; everything was up for debate!

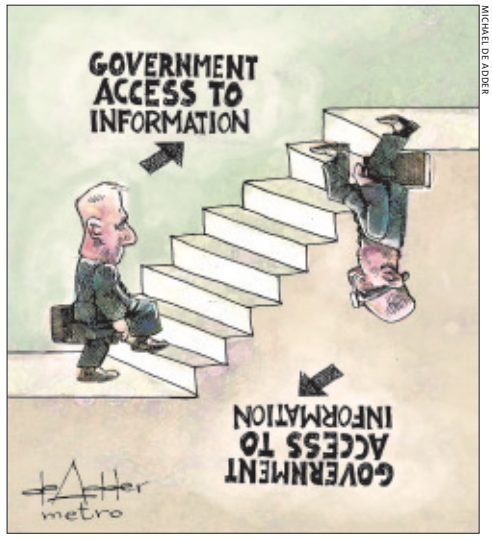
I passed billboards and signs, either for or against everything: Bank bailouts, mortgages, abortion, politicians, Obama, Supreme Court nominations. Though my political stripes run liberal, I couldn't help but laugh at all the hyperbolic statements equally: A Prius in front of us was emblazoned with an "ITMFA" sticker — that is, "Impeach The Motherf—er (that is, George Bush) Already" next to an Obama-Biden 2008 decal. The pickup truck next to it displayed a "Stop Kerry" relic (circa 2006) next to a Confederate flag.

Perhaps it's all a byproduct of American values, or the two-party system that encourages people to take sides; maybe a country built on a people's revolution and the First Amendment can only inspire outspoken, black-and-white zeal.

We're complex human beings, capable of careful discussion and give-and-take. How can anyone possibly distill an opinion on, say, the health-care reform bill (which has more pages than War And Peace) into a catchphrase? The reductive quality of a bumper sticker doesn't change anyone's mind — they are merely rallying points for the fervent, rather than talking points for the open-minded.

Though it's not my country's politics to meddle in, consider how Canadian politicos take cues from the U.S. Maybe it is worth a cautionary word or two. If only I could fit that statement on a bumper sticker.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.



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Oilsands deal gives China a veto

It appears the Chinese state oil company's deal to gain a stake in Alberta's Syncrude oilsands operation gives it a veto over whether to process bitumen in the province or export it. The government of Alberta has been trying to encourage companies to process the bitumen in the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Loonie closes above $1 US

THE CANADIAN PRESS/NATHAN DENETTE

The Canadian dollar has closed the day's trading above parity with the U.S. dollar for the first time since May 2008, finishing up more than a quarter cent to 100.08 cents US.

The loonie has been supported by the relative strength of the Canadian economy, rising commodity prices and confidence that Canada has not taken on more debt than it can handle — worries that persist for the United States and many European nations.

Economists don't expect the loonie to rise quickly to the heights it reached around $1.10 US back in November 2007, but rather feel it will waver around parity for a while.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Group says tarsands break NAFTA rules

ENERGY Green groups are taking their complaints about the Alberta tarsands to an environmental watchdog set up under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Environmental Defence Canada is spearheading the move to enlist NAFTA in the fight against the tarsands.

The group says it has filed a formal submission with the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

It complains that the federal government isn't enforcing its own pollution rules against tarsands projects.

Matt Price of Environmental Defence says the trade body could take the failure to enforce the rules as a kind of subsidy for the tarsands, a no-no under the trade pact.

At the very least, he says, the submission could shame the government into action.

Price says tailings ponds, which hold tainted waste water from the tarsands plants, leak billions of litres into streams and rivers every year.

It could take months for the commission to decide whether to hear the complaint and a final decision could take years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barrick mine can continue for now

MINING Barrick Gold Corp. is welcoming a U.S. court decision that will allow the Toronto-based gold miner to forge ahead with its Cortez Hills mine in Nevada.

A coalition of opponents had asked for a complete halt of work at the project while the U.S. Bureau of Land Management conducted a study of certain aspects.

Instead, Judge Larry Hicks came up with what Barrick calls a "more tailored" injunction.

Barrick won't shift ore off the Cortez Hills site for processing while the study is being conducted and made available for public comment.

The amount of water pumped from the mine will also be limited.

Barrick said it expects the study and public comment to be completed prior to the end of this year.

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Incentives may hurt car industry

AUTOS The growing use of incentives as a weapon in the fierce battle between automakers for market share could "significantly undermine" the industry's recovery, according to a report by the DBRS rating service.

When one automaker offers incentives such as zero per cent financing or cash rebates to get customers into its showrooms, its competitors generally have little choice but to follow suit.

This is especially true right now, as last year's bankruptcies at General Motors and Chrysler and ongoing difficulties at Toyota mean a big chunk of the North American market is "up for grabs," DBRS said.

Toyota has been offering incentives such as low lease rates, zero per cent financing and rebates on several models to win back customers after it was forced to recall more than eight million vehicles worldwide due to problems with accelerator pedals and inconsistent brake feel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RIM plans share buyback

TECH Research In Motion Ltd. announced yesterday a buyback of two million common shares through private agreements with a non-related third-party financial institution.

The buyback, representing 0.36 per cent of common shares outstanding, is in addition to the 3.9 million shares that RIM has purchased through the Nasdaq since the beginning of April.

The BlackBerry maker said the latest buybacks substantially complete the $1.2-billion US share repurchase program it announced last November.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

BROADCASTING Corus Entertainment Inc. is making programming adjustments aimed at luring more men to the women-focused W Network. A recent change in the way the broadcast TV industry tallies its viewers revealed guys were tuning out when their female partners tuned in.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bombardier recovering slowly

AEROSPACE Bombardier likely faces a slow recovery while other Canadian aerospace companies begin to prosper as a result of the rebound in commercial aviation, industry analysts said yesterday.

"There's at least another year, year-and-a-half of sluggishness in the business jet market, regionals got at least another sluggish year and then probably no real growth after that," Richard Aboulafia of the Teal Group said in an interview.

The Montreal-based manufacturer's new CSeries aircraft promises to move it into a new market segment. But an expected response by Boeing and Airbus to introduce new, more fuel-efficient engines on their popular 737 and A320s could cut into CSeries territory.

Bombardier believes it can capture half of the 110- to 149-seat market over the next 20 years.

The business jet market has stabilized after last year's 24 per cent drop in business. Regional jet sales fell by six per cent.

Among the positive signs for Bombardier is growing international air passenger traffic. Traffic by the world's airlines was up 9.5 per cent in February on a capacity increase of just 1.9 per cent. That was the sixth consecutive monthly increase in terms of year-over-year comparison and the biggest monthly increase yet.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rising fuel prices a result of growth in China

China raised fuel prices yesterday for the first time in five months, showing Beijing's confidence it can control inflation, ahead of the release of data expected to show rapid growth accelerated in the first quarter of the year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

APPOINTMENT Abu Dhabi's government has named the brother of the former managing director of the world's largest sovereign wealth fund as its new head, after last month's death of his sibling in a glider crash. Emirates state news agency WAM says Sheik Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will take over management of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

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Suffering from success

U.S. buyers have been snapping up the iPad so quickly that Apple Inc. is delaying the tablet computer's overseas debut a second time, the company said yesterday.

Apple said it will now start taking orders for the iPad from international buyers, including Canadians, on May 10.

In January, it said the iPad would be sold worldwide in late March. It started selling them in the U.S. on April 3, but delayed plans for the international launch until late in April.

Word of the second delay didn't faze Apple investors, who are eager to see signs the iPad is selling well. Apple shares rose 1.3 per cent in premarket trading.

Apple said has delivered more than 500,000 iPads in the U.S. and has taken "a large number" of orders for the coming models that can go online over cellular broadband rather than solely via Wi-Fi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL BERATY/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Best Buy employee Edwin Valadez brings Apple iPads out to be stocked before the Apple Store opens in Chicago.

Pipeline project gets environmental green light

OIL A U.S. government report finds there would be limited environmental impact from the TransCanada Keystone XL crude oil pipeline that would cross 500 kilometres in western South Dakota.

The pipeline could carry up to 900,000 barrels of crude oil daily from Canada to refineries in Oklahoma and Texas.

The U.S. State Department compiled a draft environmental impact statement because the pipeline originates in Canada and requires a presidential permit.

There's a 45-day comment period that includes a series of public meetings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU pressures Portugal

DEBT Portugal must be ready to make more cutbacks if can't achieve its deficit-reduction target, the European Union's executive commission warned yesterday as it struggles to curb soaring debt levels across the region.

Portugal's austerity efforts are closely watched by financial markets looking to see whether Greece's borrowing problems could spread to another member of Europe's currency union. Eurozone nations have pledged Greece some €30 billion in loans if it can't borrow from markets.

A European Commission report said that Portugal's target to reduce its deficit to 8.3 per cent this year could run into trouble if it can't raise the money it expects from non-tax revenue and cutbacks to capital spending.

"The outlined revenue performance and expenditure containment may be difficult to attain on the basis of the announced measures already in 2010," it said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PostGame

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Sports

Blues keep Payne as coach

The St. Louis Blues took the interim tag off head coach Davis Payne's title yesterday. Payne, left, who was named interim head coach Jan. 2, is the 23rd coach in franchise history. The 39-year-old, who is currently the youngest coach in the NHL, guided the Blues to a 23-15-4 record after taking over from Andy Murray. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Sens draw first blood

(Ottawa leads series 1-0)

Senators 5 **Penguins** 4

Erik Karlsson and Chris Kelly scored on power plays in the second period and the Ottawa Senators ignored their underdog tag, surprising the Pittsburgh Penguins with a 5-4 victory in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference first-round series last night.

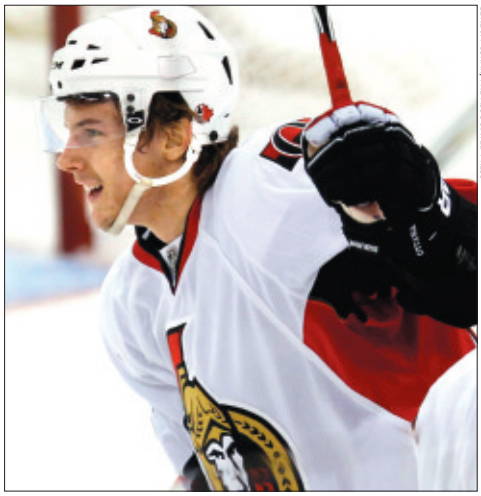
Evgeni Malkin scored twice following penalties on Peter Regin, the first barely three minutes into the game, but the Penguins looked mostly flat and uninspired for long periods in beginning their bid to become the NHL's first repeat Stanley Cup champion since Detroit in 1998.

Sidney Crosby, who piled up 15 points in his final five regular-season games, had three assists but didn't get a shot until the third period and the Penguins — seemingly unprepared for Ottawa's defensive pressure — were held to a single shot during a stretch lasting 21 minutes 53 seconds.

Ottawa constantly matched shutdown defencemen Anton Volchenkov and Chris Phillips against the Crosby line.

Jarkko Ruutu scored the winner, Chris Kelly had a goal and two assists while Regin also scored for Ottawa. Craig Adams and Alex Goligoski also scored for Pittsburgh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa's Erik Karlsson celebrates his second-period goal last night against Pittsburgh during NHL playoff action.

Sports in brief

NHL The Atlanta Thrashers are making major changes after missing the playoffs for a third straight year. Co-owner Bruce Levenson said head coach John Anderson and assistants Randy Cunneyworth, Todd Nelson and Steve Weeks won't return for another season.

HOCKEY Austin Czarnik scored twice as the United States beat Switzerland 5-1 for its first win of the IIHF World U18 Championship yesterday.

NFL The Denver Broncos traded wide receiver Brandon Marshall to the Miami Dolphins for a second-round pick in next week's draft and another second-rounder in 2011. Marshall caught 101 passes last season for 1,120 yards and a career-best 10 TDs, but his four-year stint in Denver was filled with run-ins with the law and the team.

NBA Players resting at the end of the regular season will be discussed among NBA executives, though commissioner David Stern doesn't see anything coming of it. With a healthy LeBron James set to miss his fourth straight game, Stern said he is putting the matter on the agenda for the board of governors meetings this week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ovechkin tries to keep calm as Capitals open playoffs

NHL It caused more than a ripple of concern among Washington Capitals fans when Alex Ovechkin left practice early one day this week.

Ovechkin and the Capitals say there's no need to be alarmed. The reigning two-time MVP says he was just self-policing his emotions.

Alex Ovechkin

"I just want to be in good shape," Ovechkin said yesterday. "I don't want to give my emotion in practice. I just want to be calm and concentrate."

OK, that's an interesting explanation, although it won't quiet skeptics who point out that NHL players will go to great lengths to conceal injuries. But coach Bruce Boudreau didn't hesitate when asked about his 50-goal scorer: "He's fine. He's healthy."

If Ovechkin is to be taken at his word, it is further evidence of a Capitals team that is maturing, but not yet fully mature as it prepares to open the post-season with tonight's Game 1 against the Montreal Canadiens.

The young Capitals aren't the playoffs babies they were two years ago, giddy with excitement just to be there and done after one series. Last year was as an adolescent stage for the team, with some experience under the belt but lessons to be learned. They lasted two series.

Now, well, they're not quite fully grown. If they were, then the team's captain wouldn't have to be pulling himself out of practice to keep his nerves at bay.

"We're just more calm," Ovechkin said. "We just stay quiet. Last two years in the playoffs, we just give all our emotions here in the locker-room, like, 'Oh, yeah, we get in the playoffs, it's going to be something new.'" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No 'five-year rebuild' for Burke

CONTENDER Brian Burke has something in common with fans of the Toronto Maple Leafs — he's growing impatient waiting for the team to end its long playoff drought.

During yesterday's end-of-season address, the Leafs general manager reiterated he's not keen on waiting long for the 29th-place team to become a contender. In fact, he expects it to happen next year.

"I'm not interested ... in a five-year rebuild like some of these teams have done," said Burke. "Maybe because of my age, maybe just because I know it doesn't have to be five years because it wasn't in Anaheim.

"I like the group that finished the year, I think just on internal improvement we will be better. I think we will be good enough with this group and a couple additions to say in training camp that the playoffs are a reasonable goal."

Of course, that's the same expectation Burke had at the outset of this season and his team was never a factor in the Eastern Conference, missing the playoffs for the fifth straight time.

The first alarm bells came for the GM while watching the Leafs final pre-season game, when Buffalo scored seven times on 24 shots against goaltender Vesa Toskala. Starting the season with Toskala in the No. 1 role proved to be a big mistake.

"Buffalo smoked him like a Cuban cigar," said Burke. "I'm upstairs going 'Holy moley, maybe we're wrong here.' You can't win without goaltending, it corrodes your whole style of play."

After a brutal first half, Burke traded away eight players and a younger lineup started winning more. Toronto was 13-11-2 after acquiring defenceman Dion Phaneuf and goaltender J.S. Giguere in separate deals Jan. 31.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Six who stood out

- Brian Burke singled out six players for their positive contributions to the team during the season: Jonas Gustavsson, Phil Kessel, Nikolai Kulemin, Colton Orr, Carl Gunnarson and Dion Phaneuf, who is likely to be named captain over the summer, though Burke said that's up to Ron Wilson.

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CFL gets new two-point rule for OT

The CFL's board of governors approved a rule change requiring teams to go for a two-point convert in overtime rather than kick for a single point. The proposal was brought forward by the league's rules committee. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa 5 Pittsburgh 4
Philadelphia 2 New Jersey 1
Detroit at Phoenix
Colorado at San Jose

TODAY'S GAMES
Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m.
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

TOMORROW'S GAMES
Ottawa at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY GAMES
Boston at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

NBA

TODAY'S GAMES
TORONTO 131 New York 113
Atlanta 99 Cleveland 83
Chicago 98 Charlotte 89
Dallas 96 San Antonio 89
Detroit 103 Minnesota 98
Miami 94 New Jersey 86 (2OT)
Milwaukee 106 Boston 95
New Orleans 123 Houston 115
Oklahoma City 114 Memphis 105
Orlando 125 Philadelphia 111
Washington 98 Indiana 97
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
Golden State at Portland
Phoenix at Utah

BASEBALL

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS
Chicago White Sox 11 TORONTO 1
Boston 6 Minnesota 3
Kansas City 7 Detroit 3
L.A. Angels 5 N.Y. Yankees 3
Tampa Bay 9 Baltimore 1
Texas 6 Cleveland 2
Oakland at Seattle

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS
Chicago Cubs 7 Milwaukee 6
Florida 5 Cincinnati 3
Philadelphia 14 Washington 7
San Francisco 6 Pittsburgh 0
St. Louis 2 Houston 1
N.Y. Mets at Colorado
Atlanta at San Diego
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S AL GAMES
Texas (Harrison 0-0) at Cleveland (D.Huff 0-1), 12:05 p.m.
Boston (Wakefield 0-0) at Minnesota (Liriano 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Kazmir 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Hughes 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (F.Garcia 0-1) at TORONTO (Eveland 1-0), 7:07 p.m.
Baltimore (D.Hernandez 0-1) at Oakland (Sheets 0-0), 10:05 p.m.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors, from left, Hedo Turkoglu, Marco Belinelli, Jarret Jack and DeMar DeRozan sit on the bench during second half action against the New York Knicks last night at the ACC.

Win can't save Raps

NBA RESULTS

Knicks 113 Raptors 131

DeMar DeRozan had a career-high 24 points as the Toronto Raptors beat the New York Knicks 131-113 last night, but fell short of reaching the NBA post-season.

Toronto (40-42) did what it had to do, and did so in entertaining fashion. With injured forward Chris Bosh (facial fractures) watching from the sidelines in what could be his final game as a Toronto Raptor, his team set a season high in scoring — buoyed by 24 points from Andrea Bargnani and 21 from Amir Johnson.

But Toronto also needed Chicago to lose in Charlotte, and the Bulls didn't comply — they defeated the Bobcats 98-89 to lock up eighth spot in the Eastern Conference.

Chicago will open the playoffs against the top-seeded Cleveland Cavaliers, while the Raptors will miss the post-season for the seventh time in nine seasons.

Sonny Weems added 18 points, Jose Calderon 15 and Marco Belinelli 14 for Toronto, which swept the season series against New York.

Bill Walker had a career-best 28 points to lead the Knicks (29-53), who went out meekly in their ninth consecutive losing season. Danilo Gallinari made five threes and finished with 22 points, while David Lee added 19 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tiny crowd watches Jays get thumped

MLB RESULTS

White Sox 11 Blue Jays 1

Carlos Quentin drove in a career-best six runs with a grand slam and a double as the Chicago White Sox defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 11-1 yesterday before a crowd of 10,610, the lowest in Rogers Centre history.

The Jays' previous low was a crowd of 11,159 last Sept. 9. The franchise low is 10,074 on April 17, 1979 at Exhibition Stadium, before the Jays moved to Rogers Centre in 1989.

It was another rough start for Toronto's Brandon Morrow (0-1), who could not get an out from five batters in a four-run fifth inning and departed allowing seven runs and two homers. The former Seattle Mariner allowed five runs in five innings in his first start as a Blue Jay in Baltimore on April 9.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Metro Homes

Big on parks, price

Numerous parks are a big draw to the area and wind their way along the many ravines and creeks that dominate the central swath of Bendale. Properties throughout the area are generally maintained well and values are still in the bargain-to-affordable range for people looking for detached houses with full lots.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO CANADA

Been to Bendale yet?

Bendale
Spaces & Places

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Situated at the heart of Scarborough as a symbol of its continued revitalization, Bendale is proof that Toronto's master plan is working.

The neighbourhood situated just south of the 401 roughly between Midland Avenue and Bellamy Road is notable for its charming streets, well-kept bungalows, tons of parkland, good public transit options and vibrant cultural mix of residents who just want to enjoy their peace and quiet.

Originally populated by British and other European immigrants in the 1960s, Bendale has since seen an influx of immigrants from all parts of the world, particularly Southeast Asia and China. The area is noted for its neighbourly feel and ample green spaces in a location that is a reasonable transit ride or highway drive from downtown Toronto.

Average property value: $291,972 **Rent:** $902

Homes you'll see: Developed primarily in the 1950s onwards, homes in Bendale are typically well maintained brick bungalows on traditional lots with sizeable front lawns. Split-level homes are popular in the area as well. Side streets are neat and mostly free of through traffic due to their winding, scenic nature, making them great to live on. Few high-rise buildings exist, giving the area a very expansive, suburban feel though select sections along Ellesmere Road near the Scarborough Town Centre have seen a good share of new condo development.

Bargain spot: Central Bendale, centred around Lawrence Avenue, is slightly cheaper than the rest of the area although in general Bendale is still a great place to find decent bargains on good properties.

Notable locations: Scarborough Town Centre is a big feature of the area not only in the attention and shoppers it brings to the area but also as primary destination for the Scarborough Rapid Transit (RT) line.

Where to go: St. Andrew's Fish and Chips (1589 Ellesmere Rd.) is a traditional U.K.-style treat named after the world famous golf course in Scotland and offers some uniquely British fare like the terrifying tasty deep fried Mars bar. New Suburban Restaurant (639 McCowan Rd.) offers old-school diner eats like classic grilled cheese sandwiches and pancake plates, all in huge portions for a cheap price.

Education: David & Mary Thomson CI (2740 Lawrence Ave. E.), North Bendale Junior PS (29 Aveline Cres.), Jean Vanier High School (959 Midland Ave.), Cedarbrae CI (550 Markham Rd), Bellmere Junior PS (470 Brimorton Dr.), Edgewood PS (230 Birkdale Rd),

Condos & developments: Altitude Condominiums (McCowan and Ellesmere), Centro North and South Towers (1 Towncentre Court), EQ1, Red and EA2 at Equinox (60 Brian Harrison Way).

Getting around: Access to the Scarborough RT line at Kennedy, Lawrence East, Ellesmere, Midland, STC and McCowan stations. GO Train access at Kennedy and Eglinton GO stations with subway access at Kennedy Station.

Final word: Eminently accessible and liveable, Bendale is the quintessential Toronto suburb featuring plenty of parks, a wealth of businesses run by local residents, a vibrant cultural mix and property values that don't break the bank (yet).

Legend

- 1: Midland Station
- 2: Scarborough Centre Station
- 3: EQ1 and EA2 and Red at Equinox (condo)
- 4: Scarborough Town Centre
- 5: Centro North and South Towers (condo)
- 6: The eastern terminus of the Scarborough RT (and Bloor-Danforth line) McCowan Station
- 7: Altitude Condominiums
- 8: St. Richard (school)
- 9: Cedarbrae Mall
- 10: St. Rose of Lima (school)
- 11: Scarborough General Hospital
- 12: Thompson Memorial Park
- 13: St. Victor (school)
- 14: Birkdale Ravine Park
- 15: David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute
- 16: Edgewood P. School
- 17: Bendale Business and Technical Institute
- 18: Lawrence East Station
- 19: Kennedy Station
- 20: Jean Vanier (school)
- 21: St. Albert, 1125 Midland Ave.
- 22: Charles Gordon Senior Public School, 25 Marcos Blvd.
- 23: Hunter's Glen Junior Public School
- 24: Knob Hill Park
- 25: McCowan Park
- 26: St. Nicholas (school)
- 27: Eglinton GO Station

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A theme of unknown origin

Bendale
Spaces & Places

RICK MCGINNIS
for Metro Canada

Noel Araquel stands outside his house in the "Ben jungle" area of Scarborough's Bendale, and recalls what it was like 15 years ago when he first moved in.

"On a summer night there was nothing, not a sound. No kids, no dogs, nothing."

Like so many of the city's well-preserved post-war suburbs, Bendale has become desirable again, and families are moving back. Araquel, a photographer who works in movies and commercials, lives on Benary, one of the streets whose first three letters have given the area its name — Benroyal, Benshire, Benleigh and Benprice, as well as Ben Alden, Ben Stanton, Ben Doran and Ben Nevis, not to mention Benorama, Benlight, Benlark and Benhur.

"Cops get lost in here," he says, adding that no one, in all the time he's lived here, has ever been able to explain the origin of the names.

You'd think this is the sort of place that sprung up out of woodlots and farmers' fields, but it turns out Bendale has a long history as Araquel takes me on a drive down a twisting road, past an old farmhouse behind a curved dirt driveway, to an old church and schoolhouse next to a churchyard full of weathered gravestones.

Noel Araquel took our writer on a tour through the history of Scarborough's Bendale, a large portion of which is derived from the Thomson family — who donated a church, school, upper left, and graveyard, upper right, to the community. Following up the jaunt they stopped off for some food where the locals eat, Bendale Restaurant, and a trip through some suburban family owned businesses.

"I never used to care about history much in school," Araquel tells me, but living in the area has given him an enthusiasm for local history, much of it springing from the Thomson family, Scots Presbyterians who built the farmhouse and gave land for the schoolhouse, church and the graveyard next door where many of them are buried.

They ultimately gave their name to Thomson Memorial Park, which snakes through Bendale behind Scarborough General Hospital, and which contains a tiny pioneer village of three buildings maintained by the very active Scarborough Historical Society.

The park is probably the only place where people walk, he tells me — like most suburbs, "it's still all about the driving." Scarborough Town Centre and Cedarbrae Mall are the local hot spots, and people will drive as far away as Markham to shop, though old school locals still frequent the 50s vintage strip malls. Araquel takes me to the Bendale Restaurant, a picture perfect diner on Lawrence, and the aptly named Suburban on McCowan.

"This is where I got my hair cut when I moved here," he tells me as we walk to Tony's, a barbershop around the corner from the Suburban, next to a shoe repair place and a used book shop. It's well-worn and quaint, and the halal butchers, Filipino grocers and curry takeout places that have moved in don't seem like anachronisms. The streets might be livelier than they used to be, Araquel says, but it's still a quiet neighbourhood.

"You sleep so easily here."

"Cops get lost in here."
Bendale resident on the amount of roads that start with 'Ben'

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Very sharp condos found at Blade

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Ice itself provides the inspiration for contemporary comfort at Blade Condos.

Located in downtown Brampton conveniently nearby the Brampton GO station, Blade Condos' model suite showcases a modern, upbeat design meant to elicit the best merging of contemporary cleanliness with fresh comfort.

Designer Flora Di Menna used neutral, calming tones throughout the suite punched up with subtle bright flashes of colour to make the space feel exciting without being too dramatic.

Glass features prominently throughout the two-bedroom, 945-sq.ft. suite, particularly in the living and dining areas in elements like the glass dining table, overhead lamp, side table, thin silver coffee table and wall-mounted mirror plates. The multitude of reflective surfaces creates a wealth of light that gives life to the space.

"We kept things clean, airy and light. I wanted everything to feel bright and refreshing. It's contemporary yet still with a little spark," Di Menna said.

The use of reflective surfaces and colours also played into the overall design by mimicking the lustrous quality of another of Di Menna's inspirations: Ice. Di Menna says she conspicuously set out to have the model suite match the tone and feel of a freshly surfaced hockey rink.

"We did the shapes and designs and colours to maintain the mood and environment of a skating rink. All the circular shapes throughout the suite pick up on that hockey puck theme — it's sporty contemporary for the sports-minded," Di Menna said.

Seen here is a shot from Blade Condos' model suite.

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Don't miss these finds at yard sales

Vintage draperies: Make a bedskirt and large pillows, slipcover a chair or simply frame the fabric if it is special. Champagne buckets: Plant an orchid in it or use it to hold kitchen utensils on the counter. KARL LOHNES/FOR METRO CANADA

Time to go bohemian, Gypsy chic

DecorMoment

There's a new look starting to emerge in home decor stores; its a colourful, Gypsy-like style that reminds me a bit of the pshycodelic '70s era. Bright colours, bold prints and flea market style is like taking grandma's furniture and giving it new perspective; imagine a Victorian chaise lounge reupholstered with a high-tech fabric, or an old Queen-Anne dresser being painted high gloss pink. This sort of decorating can help add a lot of character to a bland interior and also inject antique-shapes with a modern esthetic. Many of the home and fashion retailers have this look; Anthropologie, Pier1, Elte and Urban Outfitters are just a few culprits. Its mixing the best of antiques with the contemporary trends of tomorrow.

With yard sales and flea markets just around the corner, its a great time to scout for vintage decorative pieces that you can give new like to. Its not only a green and chic way to decorate, it also a great way to have a customized look in your home and save some money.

Anthropologie's Bergere Chair takes an updated look with a large floral print.

Here are a few fun projects that you can take on

Paint an old dresser: Use high-gloss paint to add shine with a high-fashion paint colour like dark grey or bright yellow and attach new hardware for character.

Transform vintage drapery fabrics into pillows and a bedskirt for the bed. Need a sewer? Ask the local drycleaners, inquire at a fabric store or call your grandma.

Add a modern shade to an old lamp. Places like Walmart and Zellers have incredible lampshapdes for sale; I suggest embellishing them with a simple strip of ribbon or glueing bright silk flowers for the bohemian look.

Re-frame funky artwork with an up-to-date frame. An alternative would be to paint the existing frame with a splash of colour.

Things to look for at yard sales

Birdcages: Turn into a lamp, grow plants in them, attach to wall as storage.

Camel back sofas: The curvy shapes are trendy but remember to re-upholster in a funky fabric rather than anything traditional.

Urban Outfitters' Wire Drop Shelf holds great inspiration for an old bird cage.

Pier1's Raie drawer unit has creative stripes painted on the front.

Karl Lohnes is passionate about good decor and wants to help you have a beautiful home; no matter what your budget or style.

T.O.'s condo crown may soon go to GTA

RooftopSurfing

Last week I wrote of how Toronto is becoming a condo "mecca," and with 80 per cent of all high-rise condo sales in the GTA currently concentrated in the City of Toronto, it's no wonder.

For all the condo action in the Toronto, the condo market is rapidly emerging in the 905 regions and, thanks to provincial policy, high-rise development will represent an increasing share of the suburban development mix in the years to come.

At the present time, Markham and Mississauga represent the two most active high-rise markets outside the Greater Toronto Area. It's hard to believe that Mississauga, the municipal poster-child for sprawl, is rapidly becoming the next City of Toronto as far as intensification is concerned, but it's true. Look no further than the 15 high-rise, 12 mid-rise Parkside Village master-planned community by Amacon in the Mississauga City Centre for evidence of the new 905 reality.

While low-rise development in Peel Region is now concentrated in Brampton, and to a lesser extent, Caledon, we are also seeing cool condo projects like Blade right at the GO station in Brampton and its success will beget further high-rise development in Peel.

As for Markham, the World on Yonge mixed-use redevelopment project by Liberty Development is perched right on the 416 border at Yonge and Steeles. Meanwhile, the Downtown Markham community by the Remington Group is made up of 4,000 mid- and high-rise condo units with nary a single-detached home in the entire development.

All along Highway 7, builders like Liberty, Times and Tridel are building high-rise communities. According to Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, the pending Langstaff Gateway master plan will be the "poster child" for intensification.

Looking ahead, we can expect to see much more high-rise development in York Region, particularly in Vaughan once the Spadina subway extensions pushes north to York University and beyond.

There's no question in my mind that within a few short years, the current 80-20 split in high-rise housing between the 416 and 905 area codes is going to be 60-40, not just because provincial policy dictates it, but because of changing demographics, shifting consumer preferences and the relative affordability.

Stephen Dupuis is president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). He can be reached at president@bildgta.ca.

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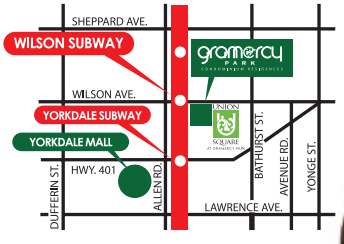

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Green designers compete

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Style

Gear for biker-chic babes

Whether you're a real biker babe or just want to rock the look, Harley-Davidson Canada's Pink Label collection offers several wearable pieces to test drive. The collection is comprised of jackets, pants, eyewear, gloves, helmets, shirts and more — all with a touch of pink. It is available at participating Harley-Davidson retailers across Canada. Ten per cent of proceeds are donated to Rethink Breast Cancer. A ladies-only Precious Metal Gala will also be held (May 11) to support the charity; visit garageparty.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Low cost, high style

Affordable lines from notable names continue to loom large

It seems there is no shortage of top-tier designers looking to bring their high-end style and fashion sensibilities to low-cost lines.

Since Karl Lagerfeld teamed up with Swedish fashion chain H&M on an exclusive collection in 2004, the number of high-fashion notables lending their names and creative talents to special collections for mass retailers has skyrocketed and shows no signs of abating.

American designer Zac Posen is among the latest to join the affordable apparel fold. He is creating a collection for U.S. retailer Target, slated for release later this month, following Jean Paul Gaultier and sisters Kate and Laura Mulleavy of Rodarte.

Gap recently announced the launch of the second collection of Stella McCartney for Gap Kids and Baby Gap. The British designer is among a host of notables, including Roberto Cavalli, Jimmy Choo and Madonna, who have followed Lagerfeld in the highly popular collaborations with H&M. The special collections for the retailer have been known to spark frenzied shopping sprees among customers clamouring for the limited-edition pieces.

Canada's Alfred Sung has been among those carving out his own niche in affordable apparel with his line for Zellers.

Pure Alfred Sung launched last year with professional separates and accessories. It has expanded this spring and summer to bring casual wear, footwear, outerwear and accessories into the mix, with apparel pieces retailing for under $40, and select pieces in plus sizing.

The Alfred Sung Pure line is available at Zellers

"I wanted to provide the average customer with something that's really sophisticated, classic without being boring and with a little bit of surprise here and there; something that's easy to wear dedicated to a wide variety of body shapes," Sung said in an interview describing the new collection, which runs the gamut from casual tees and jeans to dressier separates, including boyfriend jackets, printed blouses and slim skirts.

Sung said there is "obviously" a need in the marketplace for affordable apparel.

"The economy has not been the greatest in recent years, and I think you've got to cater to people that can't afford to buy expensive clothes anymore," he said. "There's a need out there for affordable clothes that look sophisticated, well-designed with great quality at an unbelievable price."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Right: Pure Alfred Sung jacket ($39.97); polka dot blouse ($22.97); straight leg pant ($29.97).

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The iconic Chanel 2.55 handbag was quite revolutionary when it was first introduced in 1955; it debuted the shoulder strap, which enabled women to carry a purse over their arm for the first time.

A piece of purse history

The story behind the iconic Chanel 2.55

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

Purses have always been the must-have accessory of fashion-conscious women.

But only a handful have reached iconic status, worn by the rich and famous, coveted by the rest of us and imitated the world over.

Of those, none have as intriguing a story as Chanel's 2.55 handbag, favoured by the likes of Jackie Kennedy and Princess Diana.

The story begins 55 years ago in Paris when French couturier Coco Chanel first debuted her 2.55 handbag in February 1955, the date after which the purse is named. At the time, it was quite revolutionary, introducing the shoulder strap to women's purses.

Made of metal chains intertwined with strips of leather, the strap enabled women to carry a purse over their arm, thereby freeing their hands that had previously been occupied holding a purse.

The bag's now-famous quilted exterior, created by diamond-shaped top stitching, was reportedly inspired by the stained-glass windows of the abbey in the French town where Coco grew up.

Virginie Vincens, Chanel's public relations director for Canada, explains that there's a whopping seven pockets inside the purse. "The interior gusseted pockets hold business cards or notebooks," she says.

The purse's burgundy lining was reportedly inspired by Coco Chanel's orphanage uniform.

"There's the rounded rear pocket, nicknamed the "Mona Lisa Smile," the little pocket in the middle, designed to hold lipstick, and the zipped pocket inside the flap, which is reserved for money and love notes."

Word has it that in Coco's own 2.55, that particular pocket is where she hid love letters from her various lovers.

Today, the 2.55, along with Chanel's other bags, are made at a production site in a town outside Paris, where a staff of leather craftsmen, engineers and cutters assemble each bag from five lambskins — as only the softest part of the skin (the centre portion) — is used.

During assembly, "each bag is turned inside out, in keeping with Mademoiselle Chanel's firm belief in the importance of hidden luxury — the inside should be as good as the outside," says Vincens. The purse's burgundy lining was reportedly inspired by the colour of the uniforms at the orphanage where Coco grew up.

Once a bag is assembled, it's sent to high-tech climatic chambers to test its resistance to varying temperatures, UV rays, tearing and water. Finally, it's given a tracking sticker and certificate of authenticity.

It's this remarkable craftsmanship and painstaking attention to detail — about a dozen people spend an average of 18 hours crafting each handbag — that propelled Chanel's 2.55 to iconic status in the accessories pantheon. It has transcended fashion trends and fads over the past half-century as a timeless classic.

But you better start saving if you want to call a Chanel 2.55 your own. It'll set you back (gulp) $3,200. But then, you're buying a little piece of fashion history. Some would say that's priceless.

How it's made

- This week a public exhibit showcasing how the Chanel 2.55 handbag is made stops at Chanel's flagship store on Bloor (131 Bloor St.). The exhibit ends tomorrow.

IT'S TRIBAL

Enter the wild bunch...

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Handcrafted $1,875 for this Marc Jacobs bag with crochet detail? Now that's fair trade. Marc Jacobs Fluo Passamentry Orchid bag (at select Holt Renfrew stores, holtrenfrew.com)

Elemental Earth fire and water get the sexy stone treatment. Leather and stone necklace ($24.99, at Winners, winners.ca)

Hot stuff Angaza Afrika African Art Now showcases 60 contemporary African artists who are wild at heart ($52, chapters.indigo.ca).

Backbeat These embroidered Lanvin sandals with crystals are fit for an African queen ($1,295, at select Holt Renfrew stores, holtrenfrew.com).

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Minor replaces Eubanks on Tonight
NBC announced it has hired American Idol music director Rickey Minor to serve as music director of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, replacing Leno's longtime bandleader Kevin Eubanks, who is stepping down from the job. EW.COM

Entertainment

Juno lineup
Deadmau5, Hedley, and Newfoundland and Labrador natives Damhnait Doyle, Great Big Sea, and Kim Stockwood have joined Sunday's Juno broadcast. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Strong debut for Young Rival

Young Rival

Album: Young Rival
Label: Sonic Unyon
Rating: ●●●●

THE GUITARS CRASH through the garage doors of this album with the raw power of early Iggy Pop. Yet the vocals are nasally British-invasion-era Kinks and Yardbirds. It's a mix that could only come after six or seven years playing the gritty bars of Hamilton, Ont. Young Rival plays tight, four-minute bottle drainers, not quite retro-Mod, not-quite punk. And they're very good at what they do. If the guitars don't lead you to the edge, the bass and drums will push you over. A very strong album debut.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

MGMT

Album: Congratulations
Label: Columbia/Sony Music
Rating: ●●●●

IF EVERY BAND followed up a successful album the way MGMT has, the music world would be a much more interesting place. The group's first release since the popular electro-pop Oracular Spectacular is a complete departure from the sound that made them famous. Instead of club-ready dance hits, the group takes up Beach Boys, psychedelia, new wave and more. Some will find it harder to find the hooks, but when you do you'll see this is an excellent, well-crafted, unpredictable and still infectious listen.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Cancer Bats

Album: Bears, Mayors, Scraps and Bones
Label: Distort
Rating: ●●●½

DON'T LET THE cover of the Beastie Boys' Sabotage fool you — Cancer Bats merely tacked it for kicks. What precedes it is 13 slabs of crusty, punk-infused metalcore that strikes like a brick to the face. Having tasted success both here and in the U.K., the Toronto band's third album definitely sets them up to become the anomaly in Canada's aggressive music scene. You can still hear the sum of their influences loud and clear (Pantera, Cursed, Converge), but originality is a non-issue when it comes to the catchy choruses and unbridled vehemence that hemorrhage from within Cancer Bats.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

Young Rival plays tight, four-minute bottle drainers, not quite retro-Mod, not-quite punk.

Jeff Beck

Album: Emotion And Commotion
Label: Atco/Warner
Rating: ●●●

BRACING FOR THE unexpected is the safest bet when it comes to Jeff Beck. The bold and eclectic guitar virtuoso has always pushed the parameters of what constitutes rock. In keeping with that mentality, from the serene, orchestral moodiness of Corpus Christi Carol and Never Alone through solo-driven Over The Rainbow and primal I Put A Spell On You with Joss Stone, he embraces a softer, gentler approach on Emotion And Commotion. Still, Beck pulls a few new guitar guru tricks out of his sleeve here and there — most notably via rugged, swaggering Hammerhead — making this effort occasionally striking and immaculate despite feeling generally slow and saccharine for a guitar hero.

Keith Carman/for Metro Canada

Justin Nozuka

Album: You I Wind Land and Sea **Label:** Glassnote/Warner
Rating: ●●●

IF YOU LIKE your music soft and sensitive then you'll enjoy Toronto's Justin Nozuka. The singer-songwriter trades in mostly quiet, acoustic love songs, which isn't the most exciting genre, but his smooth John Mayer-meets-Adam Levine-like voice propels this above his competition. This is mostly a straight forward disc with hints of R&B, but he does dabble in Bossa Nova on Heartless, and Gray, the disc opener, a haunting, tribal-like drumbeat transforms into a full out rock track. It's not Earth shattering stuff, but Nozuka's sophomore record deserves a close listen.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Library Voices

Album: Denim on Denim
Label: Young Soul
Rating: ●●●

EIGHT PEOPLE IN a Canadian band equals the next Broken Social Scene, right? Nope. Not this time. Library Voices is a wonderful rock group from Regina who plays clean, bouncy pop along the lines of The New Pornographers. Their debut is a solid listen, filled with catchy harmonies, electro flourishes and powerful vocals from singer Carl Johnson. There's a reason this band is getting a lot of buzz — their songs are simple, easy to sing to and sound great at a party. They're still a young band and it shows — the production needs work and the songwriting could be stronger, but this is definitely an act to watch.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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Stripped down and painted

Kourtney (left) and Khloe Kardashian have pose nude in a racy new ad for their Miami store, Dash. The E! reality stars — together with two "Dash Dolls" employees — are covered with airbrushed bodysuits that say "Dash Miami." USMAGAZINE.COM

Hollywood sign fight to be continued

LA The effort by the Trust for Public Land to preserve the land beside the world-famous Hollywood sign has received a 16-day extension to finish raising the $12.5 million US it needs to buy the hilltop property from private developers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jacksoul's Juno nod

Jacksoul has won two Juno Awards out of five past nominations, and at the risk of sounding greedy, keyboardist Ron Lopata thinks they deserve one more trophy when the music prizes are handed out this weekend in St. John's, N.L.

CHARLA JONES/TORONTO STAR

The late lead singer of Jacksoul Haydain Neal, plays his guitar at BMG Records. The last album he worked on, SOULmate, is nominated for a Juno in the R&B/Soul recording category.

Sure, he knows artists aren't supposed to admit that they actually believe their work should receive accolades. But he also knows how hard his late bandmate, Haydain Neale, worked to put out the band's final album, SOULmate.

He watched as Neale struggled to recover from the near-fatal car accident — a Honda Civic collided with his Vespa scooter — that sent him into a coma. He watched as Neale, just as he began to recover from the accident, was diagnosed with lung cancer. And then he watched Neale walk into the studio day after day to sing, fighting the physical exhaustion that accompanied the disease that took his life in November.

And now, with a nomination for R&B/Soul recording of the year, Lopata wants to see one more thing — the band's final album (released shortly after Neale's death) recognized.

"We've been lucky enough to win a couple times before, this would be a wonderful, bittersweet one," Lopata told The Canadian Press during a chat in the backyard of his Toronto home.

"It's best R&B and *soul* recording," he adds, his voice rising at the "soul" part for emphasis. If that's not the best soul recording, I don't know what is."

Yes, while much of SOULmate was written prior to the 2007 accident and certainly before Neale's cancer diagnosis, the album's performances are imbued with the sense of urgency that followed in the wake of those personal tragedies.

In fact, Lopata points out that some of the album's lyrics seem chillingly prescient in light of what's happened, no more so than Lonesome Highway. The album's opening track, it's a buoyant ode to the resiliency that develops from a strong relationship, wherein the Hamilton-born Neale uses highway crashes as a metaphor for life's struggles.

"You're battling cancer and it takes a toll on your body. ... But he persevered all the time. And he absolutely never wanted to miss a session.."

Ron Lopata on Jacksoul's late lead singer Haydain Neale

"It's almost like a fortune teller wrote it," Lopata said. "It's very eerie, and in some ways sad, and in some ways it's remarkable, and in some ways it's glorious. So, all of them.

"Every time we heard it in the studio, emotions ran really high. Haydain was always super emotional about that song. It really meant something."

When the group began work on the record — before Neale's diagnosis — they were "dabbling," Lopata said. They came together in the evenings for some casual sessions and kept things light.

Things soon became more urgent when they Neale became sick.

"I think Haydain was kind of like on a mission to do it (after that)," he said. "It became more routine and more like, let's set this, let's get this done. He really wanted to complete it. You never know when the time is going to happen, but I think he felt: Now. Let's do it."

As their work intensified, Lopata could see how difficult it was for Neale to put his head down and barrel through the task ahead.

"It was much harder for him to focus and concentrate on that stuff, because you're fighting a disease, you're tired, you can't imagine it," he said.

"He was so strong ... It's very difficult. You're battling cancer and it takes a toll on your body. ... But he persevered all the time. And he absolutely never wanted to miss a session."

But while they watched Neale, his health deteriorating, work furiously to finish the record, did the band get the sense that this would be the final piece of Neale's creative career?

"Well, I think you feel that, you know?" Lopata replied. "You never know and you hope and you wish for anything to happen — a miracle, an act of God, a change of the wind, a change of the tides. But I think, he felt, given the diagnosis you get, you just go: 'I gotta do this now. I wanna do this. I gotta leave it behind for my family, for my friends, for my fans.'

"It was important to him."

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Forbidden love forbidden words

Stephenie Meyer, the hottest author for young people since J.K. Rowling, has a new link to the creator of Harry Potter: a place high on the list of books most complained about by parents and educators.

PHOTO CREDIT: KIMBERLEY FRENCH/TORSTAR

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson nuzzle in the face of fresh danger in the film The Twilight Saga: New Moon based on Stephenie Meyer's novels.

Meyer's multimillion-selling Twilight series was ranked No. 5 on the annual report of "challenged books" released yesterday by the American Library Association. Meyer's stories of vampires and teen romance have been criticized for sexual content.

A library association official also thinks that the Twilight series reflects general unease about supernatural stories.

"Vampire novels have been a target for years and the Twilight books are so immensely popular that a lot of the concerns people have had about vampires are focused on her books," said Barbara Jones, director of the association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

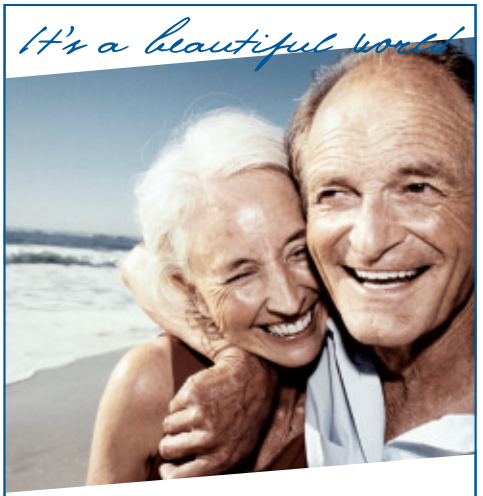
Christian groups for years have protested the themes of wizardry in Rowling's books, which don't appear on the current top 10.

Topping the 2009 chart was Lauren Myracle's IM series, novels told through instant messages that have been criticized for nudity, language and drug references.

Last year's No. 1 book, And Tango Makes Three, by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, is now No. 2, cited again for its story about two male penguins adopting a baby. Third was Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower, for which the many reasons include drugs, suicide, homosexuality and being anti-family.

Also cited were such perennials as J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye (sexual content, language), Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird (language, racism), Alice Walker's The Color Purple (sexual content, language) and Robert Cormier's The Chocolate War (nudity, language, sexual content).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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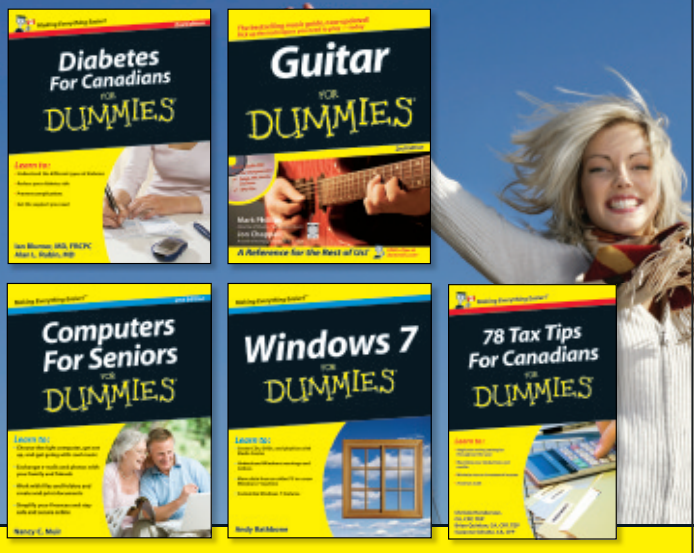

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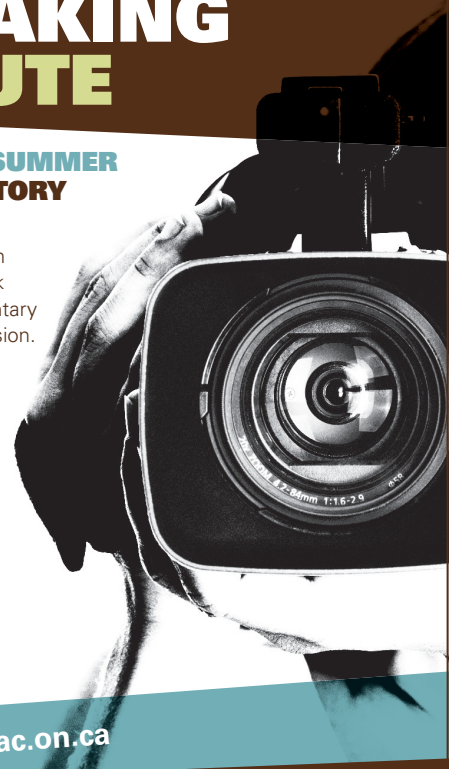

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Mad Men promotion
Mad Men's Jared Harris has been promoted to series regular for the drama's upcoming fourth season, Entertainment Weekly reports. The 48-year-old actor joined the series in Season 3. TVGUIDE.COM

Torch songs

Love and life come together for Lily Frost

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Viridian Torch finds Lily Frost in an enviable state of musical and personal cohesion.

"I always wondered how people could write happy songs. I wanted to get out of my melancholic state of mind; beyond myself and offer something more." Lily Frost

Welcome to the warmer side of Lily Frost.

Over the past half decade, pop-influenced singer-songwriter Lily Frost has garnered much attention for her expressive, sentimentality and viral melodies that have prompted many prominent television programs to feature her regularly. Yet despite an innate ability to craft fetching tunes, it's Frost's touching lyrics on life and love that have truly won over listeners.

Still, with her latest full-length Viridian Torch (Aporia), we are about to experience a fresh perspective on the Toronto-based chanteuse. Named in honour of a passion for nature while avoiding being mired in ecological issues, the album celebrates greenery and finds Frost in an enviable state of musical and personal cohesion.

"I feel like for the first time, everything has come together," she beams, noting how marriage and family life has shifted her creative focus. "I'm not yearning for love. A lot of my songs in the past were about searching for it, feeling lonely, unrequited love and things like that. Now, however, I'm offering back. Not that writing from the heart about other things is vanity but I'm not just talking about myself. I'm giving back to a place and people that gave me so much."

Based on and influenced by her roots in and around familial land near Georgian Bay, Viridian Torch reveals much more cathartic poetry than even Frost initially considered. Still, the journey to realizing and embracing her long-standing love of the homestead was not an easy one. After five albums of personal reflection, altering her modus and subject matter away from the obviousness of love was almost terrifying.

"(Once happy,) I worried that I wouldn't have (lyrical) fodder until I realized I should turn my focus to something I feel as strongly about that isn't a man or some conflicted interpersonal relationship," she admits. "I always wondered how people could write happy songs. I wanted to get out of my melancholic state of mind; beyond myself and offer something more."

Unsurprisingly, by tapping into her new-found enchantment, Frost accomplishes a wealth of blissful tunes quite easily. And while Viridian Torch is a vast departure from her previously doleful outings, musically the album is still replete with her tender carousing she defines as, "reminiscent of 1960s France; a Serge Gainsbourg-ish non-categorical art project over straightforward pop."

However, as happiness continually threatens to be fleeting, will Frost adhere to this sense of musical progressiveness? Does Viridian Torch reveal a vast, indelible shift towards a broader, loose focus? Assuredly, she acknowledges, but only in terms of conceptual foundations.

"What might stick now is having a conceptual vision of making records as opposed to just drawing inspiration from here and there, putting them all together and calling them a record. What is this body of work representing? What makes this distinctive from just a bunch of songs? I like having a theme to a record, though I don't know if I'll continue writing about nature from now on."

No legal action taken in Jon & Kate child labour case

Child-labour permits should have been obtained for the children appearing on the TLC television show Jon & Kate Plus 8, but the state will not take legal action against the producers, Pennsylvania regulators have concluded.

No action will be taken provided a portion of the proceeds from the now-cancelled reality show are put into a trust fund for Jon and Kate Gosselin's children and child-labour permits are obtained for future filming, the state Department of Labor & Industry said in a five-page letter obtained yesterday by The Associated Press.

The letter was signed by a government attorney and sent to Figure 8 Films and Discovery Talent Services last month.

"It's important to note that we did an investigation and we made sure the children were not in any danger or endangered as a result of the work they were doing," said Labor & Industry press secretary Troy Thompson.

The agency ruled that the children were employed under the state's Child Labor Law because of the direction they sometimes received, because of their continued participation in the series and because the Gosselins and others were paid for the show.

It said that at least 15 per cent of the gross proceeds, due to the children, must be placed in trust funds until they reach the age of 18 or unless needed for their safety, education, welfare or health.

Laurie Goldberg, a spokeswoman for Discovery Talent Services and TLC, said yesterday the trust was established in November and that the amount placed in trust exceeds the 15 per cent level.

Thompson said the new stipulations must be met or labour regulators may prosecute in the future. The letter said that Figure 8 Films, TLC, Discovery Talent Services, the Gosselins and other affiliated parties all deny there were violations of the child-labour law or that permits were required.

Goldberg said Discovery Talent Services and TLC have complied with state labour regulations and continue to do so. She said they agreed to get the permits even though they maintain they are not required under state law.

"These allegations are either completely inaccurate or a distorted representation for maximum attention," she said.

Alisha Agemy with Figure 8 Films declined comment.

Also yesterday, Kate Gosselin's brother, Kevin Kreider, testified at a legislative hearing on the state's child-labour laws and how they apply to TV and movie production. He discussed his concerns about potential psychological damage to children on TV shows, including a lack of adult supervision and financial security.

Robert O'Brien, deputy secretary for state's Safety & Labor Department, said the state did all it could under Pennsylvania's child-labour laws.

Thompson said the agency has begun to draft revised regulations to address issues raised by television and Internet entertainment production.

"Any time you have something on a national level like we have here, it shows the importance of having some very clear and defined regulations," Thompson said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Authorities in Pennsylvania have decided not to take legal action against the producers of TLC television show Jon & Kate Plus 8.

Terms and conditions available online at www.xacti-metro.com

Gruesome story behind Zombieland sequel

FILM Things are looking gruesome for Canadian-born screenwriter Paul Wernick and his partner Rhett Reese after the runaway success of last year's Zombieland.

The writing duo, who also executive-produced the Woody Harrelson comedy about a band of zombie apocalypse survivors, are crafting a 3-D sequel that will more than likely send severed body parts sailing beyond the screen.

"A lot of 3-D movies, they're being careful not to include gags because they think it takes you out of the story," Reese said.

"Zombieland, by virtue of its crazy, silly tone, I think is a movie that should embrace gags. So if we can drive a laugh by having something pop out from the screen and land in your lap — whatever that something might be — then we'll do that in Zombieland. I don't think ours is the movie where we need to worry about taking people out of the experience."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strange opens new Doors

When You're Strange

Director: Tom DiCillo
Stars: Johnny Depp (narrator)
Classification: STC
Rating:

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Footage of Jim Morrison as seen in the new documentary When You're Strange.

Jim Morrison and The Doors probably didn't need another film dedicated to their all-to-brief legacy (particularly after Oliver Stone's drug-fueled naked Indian epic), but Tom DiCillo's lovingly crafted documentary is an interesting watch nonetheless.

The rock-doc is refreshingly "talking head" free with no tired nostalgic interviews from bandmates or rock 'n' roll journalists pontificating on the band's place in history. Instead the film is comprised almost entirely of rare footage, photographs, and recordings of The Doors.

The audience is invited into the studio, backstage, on the road, and at home with the band and the result is a surprisingly intimate portrayal held together by some admittedly pretentious narration from Johnny Depp.

A variety of live performance clips show the power The Doors had on stage, while other more depressing home movies reveal the substance abuse problems that tore them apart.

Fans of the band are sure to be blown away by the immense amount of footage that director Tom DiCillo (Living In Oblivion) managed to dig up, but it's unlikely that the film will win over any Doors detractors.

Morrison's legacy is still questionable and while the film positions him as a rock 'n' roll poet, it's hard to ignore all the stoned and drunken ramblings in vintage interviews that suggest he was a little less than a genius.

DiCillo has crafted quite an interesting documentary that offers an intriguing portrayal of The Doors story; however, he's also clearly a fanboy and his lack of objectivity can be irritating.

There's no denying that the band made some amazing music that has stood the test of time, but does Morrison really deserve to be described as "an ancient shaman" as Depp mumbles in the narration?

When You're Strange is a film made for and by Doors diehards and everyone else will probably be left scratching their heads.

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Cable networks catching up

Conan's move to TBS latest example of growing trend

If you believe the headlines, Conan O'Brien's decision to sign with cable's TBS is "shocking."

Really, though, only Fox should be shocked — at how O'Brien was spirited away at a time the network acted like it had little competition for the late-night comic's services. It's another example of how cable networks, while not quite on par with broadcasters, are getting closer every day.

"I certainly don't think anybody going to cable today is shocking," said Michele Ganeless, Comedy Central's executive vice-president and general manager.

"Whether it's comedy or drama, cable has been leading the way over the last five years."

As a cable guy, O'Brien has plenty of company. Oprah Winfrey is starting her own network, ending her broadcast show and committing to appearances at her place. Sarah Palin has programs at both Fox News Channel and Discovery. The college football national championship is moving to cable.

TV host Conan O'Brien has surprised the entertainment industry by signing a deal for a show with cable network TBS.

The phrases "broadcast network" and "cable network" are swiftly becoming an anachronism.

Less than 10 per cent of American homes received TV signals by broadcast in February, or 11.1 million, the Nielsen Co. said. In 1999, a quarter of American homes were broadcast homes, and had no access to TBS, USA, TLC and 24-hour news.

Now, TBS is seen in more than 100 million of the nation's 114.9 million television homes. Given the trouble that some Fox affiliates were having in clearing time for him all across the country, O'Brien may debut before more people next fall on TBS than he would have at Fox.

"There is no broadcast-versus-cable war anymore," said TBS President Steve Koonin. "It only exists in the minds of the advertisers. This will be the third year that Koonin tells advertisers about his fall schedule during the same May week that has traditionally been set aside for the broadcasters. His message is plain: Treat us equally.

"Cable has had parity in late-night for a while," said television analyst Steven Sternberg. "It just hasn't had it in the press."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO	Vu	SD	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/15/10	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Trial and Retribution		Visions of Space		Agenda-Paikin
primetime	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains		Saturday Night Live in the 2000s: Time and Again (N)				News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)					National	NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA.		
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		30 Rock	30 Rock	Accidentally	30 Rock	Curb-Enthsm	Curb-Enthsm	News
	212	313	8	CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Law & Order		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Quick Change* ★★★ (1990, Comedy) Bill Murray.				*The Man Who Knew Too Little* ★★ (1997, Comedy)				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Old Christine	The Insider (N)	Stargate SG-1		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		The Insider (N)	Dream Car	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		The Mentalist (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	The Office	The Office	Saturday Night Live in the 2000s: Time and Again (N)				News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Grey's Anatomy (HDTV)		(10:01) Private Practice		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	TMZ (N)	Access H.	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Fringe "White Tulip" (N)		(10:01) Private Practice		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Fringe "White Tulip" (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	My Hero	Doc Martin		Story of God		MI-5 Terrorist group.		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vampire
news	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		Enron: Smartest Guys in the Room					Til Debt-Part	Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Spliced (N)	Total Drama	Stoked (N)	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Aeon Flux* ★★ (2005, Science Fiction)		
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Love It or List It		Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	House-Sell	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	My Date With...	My Date With...	My Date With...	My Date With...	disBAND "Stereos"		UR11
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Fugitive Chronicles (N)		Fugitive Chron.
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	1986 FIFA World Cup in Mexico				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Elvis: Viva Las Vegas		
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According/Jim	According/Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	UnStable
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Safe Harbor* (2006, Suspense) Tracey Gold.				Damages (HDTV) (N)		Cra$h & Burn
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	Snapshot	Innovators	Writers	*Eighteen* (2004, Drama) Brendan Fletcher. (DVS)				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Last 10	Last 10	Last 10	Last 10	Chop Shop	Chop Shop	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Ice Road Truckers (HDTV)		Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Ax Men (HDTV)		Ancient Discoveries		Re-Inventors
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Martin	Sarah	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan	Real Renos	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: Special Victims		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	*Delta Farce* ★
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Tiny & Toya	Tiny & Toya	*National Security* ★★ (2003, Comedy) Martin Lawrence.				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Human Target (N)		Lost (HDTV) (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52	MTV	After	Cribs	Cribs	Teen Cribs	My Life as Liz	My Life as Liz	Taking, Stage	Taking, Stage	After
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Whatever	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	King	Comeback
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Chuck-Day Off	HEAT, McEwan	At the Table	Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Bitchin
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	The Good Life	*The Searchers* ★★★★ (1956, Western) John Wayne, Jeffrey Hunter.				
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Toopy & Binoo	Franklin	Babar	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing "Exposure"		Medium		Cold Case		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	*The Narrows*	(7:25) *Out of Control* (2009, Suspense)			*In the Loop* ★★★ (2009, Comedy) Peter Capaldi.				*State of Play*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Buck and the Preacher* ★★★ (1972, Western)				*Snatch* ★★★ (2000, Comedy-Drama) Benicio Del Toro.				*Sleeping Dogs*
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet		King Tut Unwrapped How Tutankhamen lived and died.				MythBusters		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart (Part 2 of 2)		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	Britain's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		Britain's Next Top Model		Australia's

critics' corner

Eighteen

On his 18th birthday, a young runaway (Paul Anthony) hears a tape from his grandfather recounting the day he turned 18 in the Second World War. Flashbacks to Grandpa's flight through French woods, with a wounded buddy in tow and the Germans on his heels, are interspersed with his grandson's wanderings through the city with his own buddy, a gay street hustler (Brendan Fletcher). That's Ian McKellen supplying the grandfather's voice. Alan Cumming also stars. 9 PM on BVO

Buck and the Preacher

Sidney Poitier made his directing debut with this 1972 Western, in which he also stars. His character is a Civil War veteran who teams up with an ex-con (Harry Belafonte) to keep a group of former slaves out of the hands of labor agents who want to exploit them. Ruby Dee, Cameron Mitchell and Denny Miller ("Lonesome Dove: The Series") also star. 6 AM on PIX

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Weisz pick for Jackie
The hot spec script Jackie, about the immediate days following President Kennedy's assassination, is getting the big screen treatment with Academy-Award winning actress Rachel Weisz now attached to play the late first lady. EW.COM

Columbia snags rights to trilogy

Columbia Pictures has bought the English-language movie rights to the popular Millennium trilogy by late crime novelist Stieg Larsson, a Swedish film production company said yesterday.

More than 12 million copies of Larsson's trilogy, which starts with The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, have been sold globally.

Yellow Bird AB, which made Swedish-language movies based on the books, will work with Columbia Pictures on the Hollywood versions. Filming is expected to start next year.

Yellow Bird CEO Mikael Wallen said the movies will be produced by Scott Rudin, whose credits include the Academy Award-winning No Country for Old Men, while Schindler's List scriptwriter Steve Zaillian will adapt the books for the big screen.

Wallen said no director had been picked yet and did not specify the terms of the sale.

"It's a little bit complicated, since we need someone who wants to, and can, do all three films," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

BIOPIC Courtney Love says the rumours that Twilight star Robert Pattinson will play Kurt Cobain in an upcoming biopic are silly and stupid. Love said she can imagine Canadian actor Ryan Gosling in the role of her late husband. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dining out

HOP ON OVER Take in the aroma of freshly made beer, brewed right on the premises at The 3 Brewers (275 Yonge St.). The smell of malt and hops fills the restaurant as they blend Blonde, Red, Dark and Premium Wheat Ales.

LINE DANCE A little trend has formed, especially in the newly fashionable Ossington area. New restaurants, such as Pizza Libretto, are not taking reservations, so that you line up to have dinner. STEPHANIE DICKISON/ FOR METRO TORONTO

In brief

GOT MILK? If you can't get enough dairy, then you've got to get yourself to A Taste of Quebec (55 Mill St., Bldg. 32) for their "Tasting Soirées." For more info go to atasteofquebec.com. STEPHANIE DICKISON/ FOR METRO TORONTO

Global Peasant blog online

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- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant to find out what its like at a recipe testing for Beer Brats Sausages.

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Rating: ●●●½
Dinner for two with drinks: $50

Thank goodness for the bright yellow side of the restaurant. Otherwise, I might have missed it.

Poised beside a water pumping station and across the street from a sizable McDonald's, stands the long, thin restaurant. Out here in what feels like an industrial park lays a beautiful, uncluttered restaurant with white stucco walls, modern fireplaces and tables spaced far apart.

The original location was Toronto's first creperie, so we decide on crepes.

To start, I order the Pâte, but our server chides, "Non, you want the Cretons à l'Ancienne ($6.75)," as "Pâte" on the menu is chicken liver. Despite the language barrier, it's lovely — creamy and mild.

Our Crepe Bergère ($14) and Crepe Continentale ($14) arrive. The Bergère is a delightful stew of simmered curry lamb, apple and raisin and mine is a mélange of morsels of chicken, mushrooms and celery in a creamy white wine and rosemary sauce — like chicken pot pie in a crepe! The crepe itself is well-constructed — thick and chewy with a crisp brown top and not heavy or starchy. Our only complaint? They are on the dry side.

A fine meal and evening. With a view of the park. And water pumping station.

STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

Crepe Continentale ($14)

On the web

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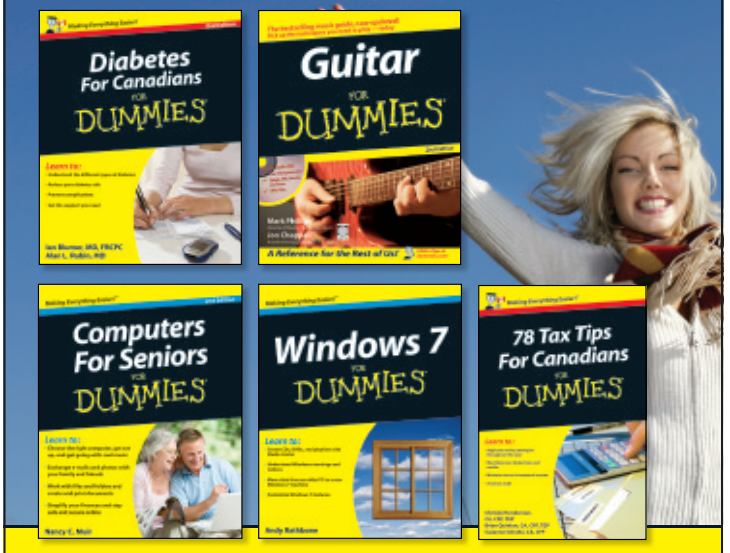

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Do we really want to see this?
Following a popular trend in media for *au natural* photography, UK's Daily Mail reports that Britney Spears has allowed her recent photo shoot for Candie's to be released — untouched, popeater.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Not mastering marriage

BUT HE'S TAKE A SWING AT PARRING THINGS UP SINCE HE'S ALREADY USED HIS MULLIGAN. YEAH, I WENT THERE He's gone to rehab and resumed his golf career, but Tiger Woods' marriage is as wobbly as ever sources are saying, People magazine reports.

The magazine notes Woods' wife Elin Nordegren skipped the golf star's big comeback at the Masters and was described as disgusted and outraged by his Nike commercial featuring a voiceover by his late father.

After Woods finished the tournament, coming in fourth, Nordegren flew out of Florida without her husband and their two children — they were left with nannies — for a destination unknown, friends say.

"Elin was violently angry over this commercial and thought it was a cheesy thing to do," one friend tells People.

"She wouldn't have gone near the Masters under any condition, but that just made her madder. She is over Tiger. I wouldn't be surprised if she files for divorce sometime soon."

So far, though, it's only been talk among friends, the magazine adds. No legal papers have been filed, and it hasn't even been confirmed that she's retained a divorce attorney.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The proof is in the pouf

She may be the self-proclaimed "Queen of Reality" but even Jersey Shore's Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi must admit that it's her hair that's become biggest star of them all, people.com reports.

In a new video promoting Pantene's World's First Reality Hair Star competition — where one winner will star in the company's first live commercial in May — the outspoken 22-year-old flaunts her dark locks while explaining just why her long tresses reign supreme.

"I have the greatest hair ever. It's thick, it's naturally straight and I can pretty much do whatever I want to it," she says. "My hair can have its own TV show."

The petite reality star even demonstrates the veracity of her signature hair pouf by clipping a mound of hair into a towering bob.

"It's real, there's no extensions, sweeties," she explains, then adds: "Every girl's trying to do the pouf and they can't because it's my pouf!"

METRO WORLD NEW

Touching Heidi's heinie?

OF COURSE HE DIDN'T! HE HAS A SILICONE ALLERGY Lauren Conrad is dismissing an Internet report alleging that Hills creator Adam DiVello sexually harassed Heidi Montag, usmagazine.com reports.

"Similar to most of my fellow MTV cast mates, I am in utter shock at the allegations made against Adam DiVello," she tells the website in a statement.

"Not only are they completely absurd, but they are 100 per cent without merit. Adam is a true professional and a wonderful person to work for."

Citing multiple sources, celeb blogger Perez Hilton wrote Tuesday that DiVello allegedly touched Montag, 23, inappropriately on her buttocks and "lower back" after she underwent her 10 cosmetic procedures.

Montag and her husband Spencer Pratt "are very close to bringing legal action against the show," an insider told Hilton.

Sources also told Hilton that DiVello allegedly made inappropriate advances toward Lauren Conrad, which Conrad, 24, denies.

An MTV spokesperson tells Us: "We have looked into this matter and the allegations made against Adam DiVello are completely false and without merit"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taking to the stage (school)

HER DAD'S A DANCER, HER MOM'S AN POP IDOL, WEIRD THAT SHE WANTS TO PERFORM TOO Madonna's daughter has enrolled in a prestigious New York stage school, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Lourdes — the singer's 13-year-old child with fitness trainer Carlos Leon — currently takes acting classes in Manhattan, but is now said to have auditioned for LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, which is dubbed the "Fame school" due to its appearance in the movie Fame.

However, some students at the school are concerned the singer's daughter is getting preferential treatment by having a private audition, rather than the usual public one.

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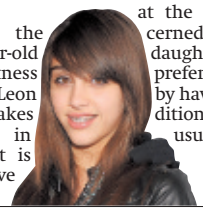

No Prada just a wedding dress

NEXT TIME SKIP THE WEDDING AND GO WITH THE PRADA. YOU COULD ALWAYS SELL IT AND PAY FOR A WEDDING LATER The Office star John Krasinski and fiancée Emily Blunt will be tying the knot a lot sooner than many thought, as the Devil Wears Prada star is reportedly putting the finishing touches on their ceremony plans, according to Hollyscoop.

"They'll get married in about a month. She is planning the wedding right now and is down to the last-minute details. They picked up their wedding bands yesterday," a source says.

The only question remaining, apparently, is where the wedding will take place.

"It will be a big wedding, probably in London or Los Angeles."

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Rekindling old flames?

OR JUST STOKING THE PR FIRE? Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel's notoriously on-and-off relationship is once again on the rocks as the singer cozies up to ex Cameron Diaz while shooting the romantic comedy Bad Teacher, reports Us Weekly.

Multiple sources tell Us Weekly that Diaz, 37, and Timberlake, 29, flirt openly on the Valencia, Calif., set.

While shooting, it's like "old times" for Timberlake and Diaz, who dated for four years before he began romancing Biel, 28, in 2007, a pal tells Us Weekly.

There's "lots of laughing, making fun of each other, kidding around off camera," the source says. "She's sassy with him — and slick, prancing around in tight clothes."

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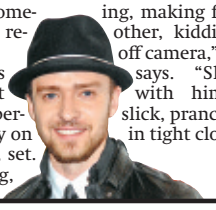

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CelebTweets

ROB THOMAS is a well-compensated traveler, **LINDSAY LOHAN** is fed up with Perez Hilton, **AND JUSTIN BIEBER** wants Conan O'Brien to back off.

@ThisIsRobThomas Landed in detroit. Ready to board for virginia. This is the part of the job I get paid for. I play music for free.

@lindsaylohan @perezhilton your statement couldn't be more wrong in every single way. And I find your accusations and slanderous remarks to be gross.

@justinbieber @ConanOBrien First TBS with Turner Broadcasting (Atlanta) now wearing a hat of my homeland...is it just me or r u stalking a minor? not cool

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tweeting his harsh words

SORRY, MEANT EATING HIS HARSH WORDS After causing a stir with his Twitter comments, about Tiger Woods and his wife, Jim Carrey issued a mea culpa of sorts to his fans and followers, tvguide.com reports.

"To anyone whose grievances have chosen me as their cause, I would say first, that I recognize that tendency in myself, but if you knew me well, you'd see that your resentment has been misplaced. I wish every human being nothing but love and immeasurable happiness," Carrey said in a statement Tuesday.

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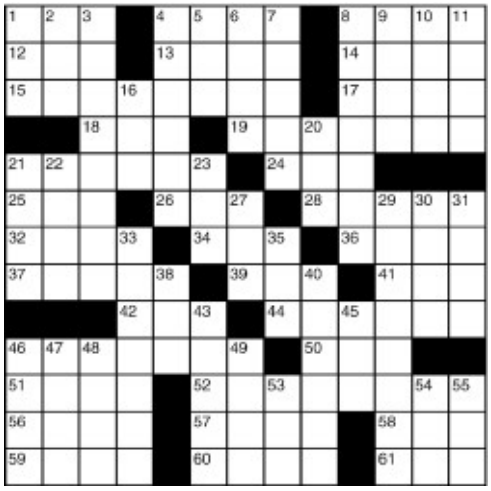

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Sudoku

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HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

				9		8		5
	1				5			
5		7						
	9			4	6		3	
4								7
	7		5	2			6	
						7		4
							1	
8		2		3				

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

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4	7	2	6	1	3	8	9	5
6	8	5	9	4	2	7	3	1
7	5	1	4	2	6	3	8	9
8	4	9	3	5	1	6	2	7
2	3	6	8	7	9	1	5	4
3	1	7	2	9	4	5	6	8
9	6	8	5	3	7	4	1	2
5	2	4	1	6	8	9	7	3

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Parmesan Crusted Chicken

Submitted by Paula Bowman

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:

2 egg whites, lightly beaten
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
4 (6-7oz) skinless, boneless chicken breasts
2 cups finely grated Parmesan cheese
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves, chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat broiler to high and set oven rack to top position. Lightly oil a rimmed sheet pan with olive oil and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, mix egg whites with Dijon mustard and set aside. Place chicken breasts on a cutting board. With a knife parallel to the cutting board, cut chicken breasts in half lengthwise to create two thin chicken breast cutlets. Working with one cutlet at a time, dip chicken into egg white mixture and then coat in Parmesan cheese and place on prepared sheet pan.
3.Broil chicken breasts until crunchy and golden on one side, flip over and continue to cook on other side until cooked through, about 4 minutes per side. Toss carrots with walnuts just before serving. Divide chicken cutlets and carrot mixture among four plates and serve with any remaining broth from pan.

SERVES 4

• *Serve this chicken with our Garlic Glazed Carrots. Find the recipe at 20minutesupperclub.com/metro.*

20 minute SUPPER CLUB

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
As an Aries you enjoy a battle of wits occasionally. You don't have to give in and walk away but you do have to recognize where the real power resides.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
If you come on too strong today you will almost certainly turn people against you. Get the balance right.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Set yourself targets that are easy to reach. You may think you can do anything but it won't be that easy today.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
The reason you have lost interest in something is because your attitude towards it has changed. Help others see it too

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
There may be a thousand and one things you want to do but your time and your energy are limited, so don't overdo it.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
This is not a good time to risk your hard-earned cash on risky enterprises. Be especially wary of people who talk a good deal.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Try not to take your fears too seriously. This is only a passing phase so, let it pass.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You don't have to sacrifice pleasure for duty today but if you do you will feel good about yourself.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
If you try to fit in with others' ideas of how you should behave there will be disappointment all round.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
This is not a good day to say or do anything that might upset people who are important to you, either in a personal or a professional sense.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
If you come on too strong with your opinions today you will merely succeed in making other people hold on more tightly to their own.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You need to have more confidence in yourself. One of your ideas is not just good, it's great, and you should be shouting about it from the rooftops.

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HYUNDAI

—SMART—
CASH SAVINGS
—EVENT—

LOWER PRICES
~~OR~~ WITH
0% FINANCING
FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS.◊

2010 ACCENT L 3DR

GL Sport model shown

SELLING PRICE $9,999♦

WHICH MEANS YOU PAY $11,530♦
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCL. PLUS GST & PST.

WITH 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MOS.◊

2010 ELANTRA L

Limited model shown

SELLING PRICE $11,999♦

WHICH MEANS YOU PAY $13,530♦
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCL. PLUS GST & PST.

WITH 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 60 MOS.◊

2009 ELANTRA "Highest Ranked Compact Car in Initial Quality in the U.S." -J.D. Power & Associates[2]

2010 ELANTRA TOURING L

GLS Sport model shown

SELLING PRICE $13,999♦

WHICH MEANS YOU PAY $15,530♦
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCL. PLUS GST & PST.

WITH 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 48 MOS.◊

2010 SANTA FE GL 2.4L

Limited model shown

STARTING FROM $25,999♦

WHICH MEANS YOU PAY $27,895♦
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCL. PLUS GST & PST.

WITH 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 60 MOS.◊

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2010 TUCSON

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Starting From $24,895♦
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCL. PLUS GST & PST.

Or Lease From $253** at 2.9%
Annual Lease Rate for 48 mos. with $4,695 down payment.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCL. PLUS GST & PST.

2011 SONATA

Limited model shown

Starting From $24,350♦
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCL. PLUS GST & PST.

Or Lease From $250** at 3.65%
Annual Lease Rate for 60 mos. with $4,320 down payment.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCL. PLUS GST & PST.

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ♦Prices for models shown: 2010 Accent 3 DR GL Sport 5-speed is $15,830/2010 Elantra Limited is $21,980/2010 Elantra Touring GLS Sport is $23,430/2010 Santa Fe Limited is $37,695/2010 Tucson Limited is $34,345/2011 Sonata Limited is $30,700. Dealer participation of $500 for 2010 Accent L 3dr/$500 for Elantra L is included. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2010 Accent/$1,495 for 2010 Elantra/$1,760 for 2010 Tucson/$1,565 for 2011 Sonata, fees, levies, charges and all applicable taxes (excluding PST and GST) are included. Registration, insurance, PPSA ($75) and license fees are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2010 Accent 3Dr/2010 Elantra/2010 Elantra Touring/2010 Santa Fe models with a finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0% for 36/60/48/60 month terms. Financing example: 2010 Accent L 3Dr 5-speed for $11,530 at 0% per annum equals $320.28 per month for 36 months for a total obligation of $11,530. Lease example: 2010 Elantra/2010 Elantra Touring/2010 Santa Fe models with a lease rate of 0%/0%/0% for 36/48/60 month terms. Leasing example: 2010 Accent L 3Dr 5-speed for $11,530 at 0% per annum equals $192.17 per month for 60 months for a total obligation of $11,530. Lease example: 2010 Elantra/2010 Elantra Touring/2010 Santa Fe models with a lease rate of 0%/0%/0% for 36/48/60 month terms. Leasing example: 2010 Accent L 3Dr 5-speed for $11,530 at 0% per annum equals $320.28 per month for 36